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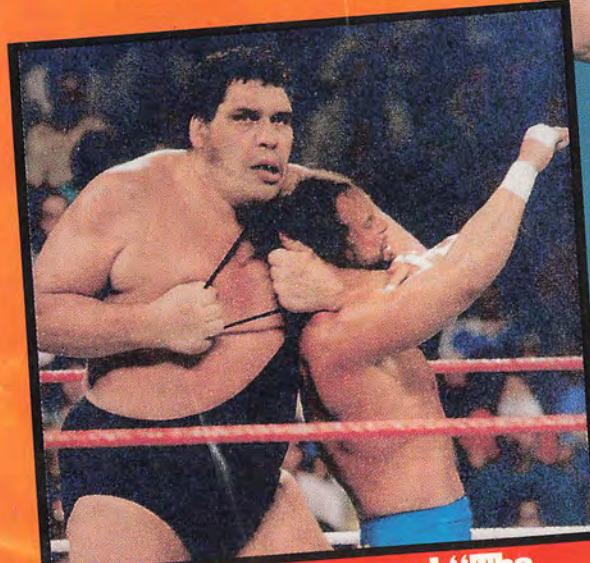
47951 January 1989

# Wrestler THE

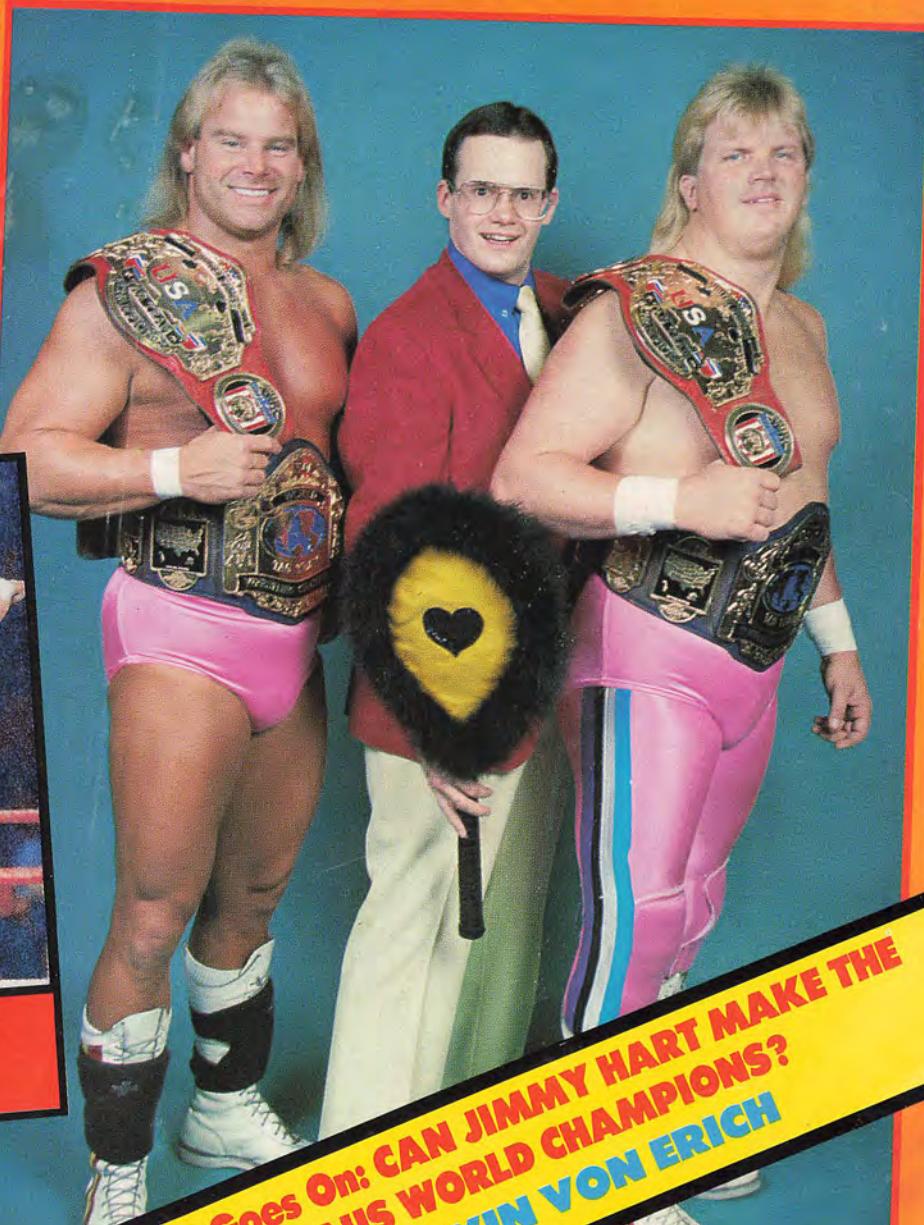
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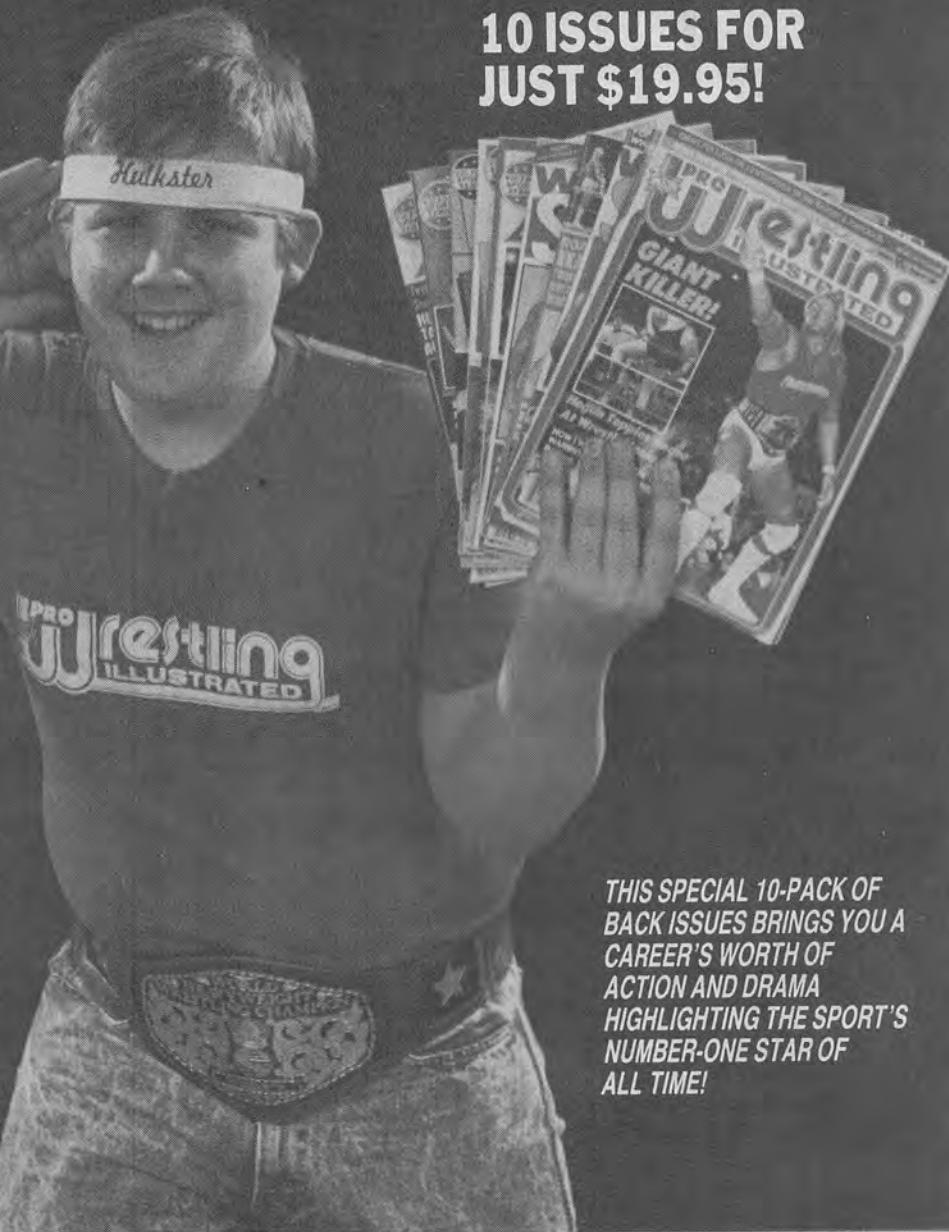
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# THE Wrestler

## CONTENTS/JANUARY 1989

### 6 YOUR LETTERS

Sneak-Attack Stinks; The Brody Tragedy; Love For Love

### 8 WHAT'S HAPPENING

All the latest news as of press time

### 10 WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Andy Rodriguez

Sgt. Slaughter is back in the AWA... sort of

### 12 BLINDSIDED by Bob Smith

Junior heavyweights are getting short shrift

### 14 THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Cheers and jeers to those who deserve them most

### 16 CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Eyewitness reports of the month's major matches

### 18 YOU ASKED US

All your most important questions are answered

### 20 INTRODUCING DUSTIN RHODES

The son of a legend is making waves in sunny Florida

### 22 Q & A: KEVIN VON ERICH

The eldest Von Erich brother discusses his recent woes

### 26 SPOTLIGHT ON THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Career highlights of the new WWF Intercontinental champion

### 28 X-RAY: JAKE ROBERTS

Our panel of experts examines "The Snake"

### 30 WITH THE AWA BELTS IN THEIR SIGHTS . . .

THE TOP GUNS MISFIRE AGAINST BAD COMPANY

The newcomers experience a rough flight to the title

### 32 THE BEAT GOES ON:

CAN JIMMY HART MAKE THE ROUGEAS WORLD CHAMPIONS?

The wily manager insists he can lead the Rougeaus to riches

### 34 THE HORSEMEN DESTROYED! THE BELTS ARE THEIRS!

BUT THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS STILL MUST PROVE THEMSELVES!

Jim Cornette's men wage a constant battle for respect

### 36 WHEN ANDRE SAVAGED "THE MACHO MAN" . . .

WHERE WAS HULK?

Has Hogan stopped caring about his Megapowers partner?

### 38 OUTMANNED, BUT NOT OUTWRESTLED:

TERRY GORDY TAKES ON AKBAR'S ARMY!

He may be all alone, but Gordy isn't afraid of the General

### 42 MATT BROCK'S LOOKING BACK

June 22, 1962: Bobo Brazil vs. Skull Murphy

### 64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

The sport's most respected rankings

### 66 RATINGS ANALYSIS

Including a look at this month's revolving Florida rankings

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### COVER PHOTOS:

The Midnight Express by Len McAlister

Ultimate Warrior, Andre

by David Fitzgerald

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# YOUR LETTERS

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## SNEAK-ATTACK STINKS

After watching The Ultimate Warrior defeat The Honky Tonk Man for the WWF Intercontinental title, I was upset that Honky Tonk lost the belt. I thought that Honky Tonk would try to regain the title immediately, but instead he would rather sneak-attack Warrior from behind.

The situation I'm talking about is when the Warrior was being interviewed by Craig DeGeorge. Jimmy Hart came out and distracted him, then, out of nowhere, Honky Tonk came out and hit the Warrior from behind with his guitar.

The Warrior, not even dazed from the first hit, got up—but Honky Tonk was waiting and clocked him on his head and knocked him out. I thought Honky Tonk was a great champion when he had beaten Pedro Morales' longest title reign, but Honky Tonk is just a cheater and a sore loser. You don't win your title back by sneak-attacking, you have to win it back in the ring!

PATRICK HELLER  
Chevy Chase, MD

## THE BRODY TRAGEDY

I have never written a letter to a wrestling magazine before, but when I saw your November 1988 issue and read what happened to Bruiser Brody



Bruiser Brody whips Lex Luger across the ring. Brody's death was a shock to fans like Paul Marquette, who was fortunate enough to have seen Brody wrestle in person.

("The Wild Life And Tragic Death Of Bruiser Brody"), I couldn't help but write this letter.

What a tragic loss to professional wrestling! I think Bruiser Brody was one of the best wrestlers in the world. He had faced all the best competition the sport could offer.

I always wished for a chance to see him wrestle in person, but thought it would never happen. But my wish came true last May when Brody came to town to meet Abdul-

lah the Butcher on a card in Warren, Ohio. I'm sorry to say that Abdullah didn't make the card, so Brody went on to meet The Black Spoiler. Even though the Spoiler never had a chance against Brody, it was still a treat to see Brody in person.

Bruiser Brody will not only be sorely missed by me and my friends, but by wrestling fans all over the world. He was truly one of the best.

PAUL MARQUETTE  
Girard, OH



Bobby Heenan, Virgil, Ted DiBiase, and Andre the Giant may seem like a chummy bunch, but they don't entirely trust one another. Robert Huse predicts that by WrestleMania V, Heenan will be feuding with DiBiase.

### SCANDAL SURPRISE

I am responding to one-half of the November 1988 cover story, "Scandal! The 'Friends' Who Plot To Stop Ted DiBiase!" I must say that I was surprised.

Up until now, I thought that DiBiase was the mastermind of all this controversy, and Virgil, Andre the Giant, and Bobby "The Weasel" Heenan were putty in his hands. Now it appears that Heenan has all the cards in his favor. He has Andre back, Virgil as a secret ally, and Ted DiBiase at his mercy. I predict that at either Survivor Series II or WrestleMania V, Heenan and company will dump DiBiase and leave him for dead.

Virgil would benefit from being with Heenan. He'd be more of a wrestler and less of a slave. Heenan would make Virgil a wrestling machine and free him of his dependence for "The Million-Dollar Mouse."

ROBERT HUSE  
Randolph Center, VT

### TAYLOR'S WWF SHUFFLE

I have something I'd like to say about Terry Taylor's move to the WWF: it was the dumbest thing he

WWF before you get lost in the shuffle!

JASON WOOD  
Tillson, NY

### LOVE FOR LOVE

Friends, I'd like to apologize for the letter that L.T. Mohr wrote in the November 1988 issue of *The Wrestler* ("I Hate Love"). He obviously needs to learn to love.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with Brother Love taking a few minutes out of an hour to spread his message of love. I'd like to thank brother "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase for sponsoring his weekly segment.

I also think it's all right for Brother Honky Tonk Man to combine his two loves, wrestling and singing.

Finally, let me say that your "Road Warrior wanna-be's"—Demolition—are the WWF World tag team champions.



Brother Love interviews Hacksaw Duggan at SummerSlam 88. The WWF's resident televangelist turns off a lot of people—but not Chris Shepherd, who writes that Brother Love could teach us all to love each other more.

ever did.

As I write this, Taylor's been in the WWF for approximately two months. In that time he's only been on three WWF TV shows. He's only gotten crummy competition like Omar Atlas and Brian Costello. They aren't my idea of worthy opponents.

If you happen to be reading this, Taylor, I want you to think about what I'm saying. You'd better leave the

So, brother L.T., learn to love a little more. And remember: I love you.

CHRIS SHEPHERD  
Deptford, NJ

### ULTIMATE OUTLAWS

The ultimate tag team in the NWA's history, The Outlaws, should be commended on the recent reunion of their partnership.

(Continued on page 44)

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER

NWA WORLD TAG team champions **The Midnight Express** will face the stiffest test of their brief title reign when they wrestle **The Road Warriors** on November 23 at The Baltimore Arena.

"**Bobby Eaton** and **Stan Lane** have about a month to live," **Road Warrior Hawk** boasted after the match was signed. "They've been avoiding us for too long, but they can't avoid their death. We'll wrap those belts around their scrawny throats 'til the straps are covered with blood, then we'll wrap them around our waists."

**Jim Cornette**, manager of the **Midnights**, has other ideas.

"Hawk and **Animal** are pretty big, but they're also pretty stupid," Cornette said. "They'd better realize that 'Beautiful' **Bobby Eaton** and 'Sweet' **Stan Lane** are not only the best tag team in the world, but the smartest, too. If they have any plans to beat **The Midnight Express**, they'd better get a new manager."

**Paul Ellering**, manager of **The Road Warriors**, refused to respond to Cornette's charges. The **Warriors** were also scheduled to wrestle the **Midnights** on October 14 in



Road Warrior Hawk presses **Bobby Eaton**. The **Warriors** are hot after **The Midnight Express'** NWA World tag team title.

Richmond, Virginia.

The November 23 card will be part of an entire week of NWA events called "Battlestar '88: The Road To Starrcade." Battlestar '88 will continue with cards in Atlanta on Thanksgiving night; Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 25; Greensboro, North Carolina, on November 26; and will conclude on November 27 with an afternoon card in Norfolk, Virginia, and an evening show in Richmond, Virginia.

**Starrcade**, traditionally held on Thanksgiving night, has been moved to December 26 this year. The card from Norfolk will be available on television on a pay-per-view basis. No matches had been signed at press time.

This has certainly been a happy time for **Nikita Koloff**. First, "The Russian Nightmare" reunited with his uncle **Ivan Koloff**. But the big news is that on September 20, wedding bells rang for Nikita and his bride **Mandy**. Our congratulations to them both . . . The National Wrestling Federation title, previously held by **D.C. Drake**, has been held up. Officials are trying to de-

(Continued on page 48)

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**S**Gt. SLAUGHTER is back . . . back in the hospital, that is.

Fortunately, though, he won't be there for long. Just days after his long-awaited return to the AWA, Slaughter was brutally attacked by Col. DeBeers, the South African madman who made life miserable for Jimmy Snuka in 1986. Ironically, it was Snuka who should have been in Slaughter's place, but the "Superfly" had prior commitments in Japan.

This was supposed to be a happy story. I had accompanied Senior Editor Bill Apter to Memphis in anticipation of Slaughter's return. I have always believed that it was one of the pities of the sport that Slaughter has had to spend so much time wrestling for the independents. Sure, those lesser-known promotions are an important part of the game, but millions of fans have been denied the chance to see their Marine hero in action. Now the AWA, in association with World Class and the CWA, was giving those fans that chance.

On the card I attended, which was an ESPN television taping, Slaughter teamed with The Rock 'n' Roll Express to face DeBeers, Soldat Ustinov, and Teijho Khan. Despite his customary loud-mouthed bantering, DeBeers was reluctant to get in the ring whenever Slaughter tagged in. So reluctant, in fact, that halfway through the match he took a hike back to the dressing room. Without a third partner, Ustinov and

Khan didn't stand a chance; Slaughter easily pinned Khan.

As AWA announcer Lee Marshall prepared to interview the winners, Ustinov and Khan challenged Rick Morton and Robert Gibson to come back into the ring. Eager to shut the rulebreakers up, the Rock 'n' Rolls jumped in.

It was a trap. In all the commotion, DeBeers reappeared at

ringside and whacked Slaughter from behind with his riding crop. He then rammed Sarge's head into the ringpost and piledriven him on the cement floor. By the time Morton and Gibson realized what was going on, their friend was out cold.

Slaughter is all right now; his psyche is more bruised than his body. He was examined at a local hospital and released a few hours later. The biggest thing weighing on his mind is not a bump, but a bum: Col. DeBeers.

"Let me tell you something about that scum DeBeers," Slaughter said. "He doesn't deserve to live. Nobody can call himself a man if he chooses to attack me from behind. Even some of my fiercest enemies have had the guts to fight me face to face. DeBeers wouldn't know guts if they spilled out of his stomach. He may be a colonel in the South African army, but he wouldn't make it through boot camp in the United States Marines!"

Given the opportunity to respond to Slaughter's charges, DeBeers resorted to his usual racist mouthings. "Sgt. Slaughter is indicative of the lack of fighting spirit among the American people. Remember that goon, Scott Hall? Where is he now, scooping ice cream at Baskin Robbins? Or perhaps he's a street sweeper in Harlem, which is where he belongs, among the trash of your once-great society. That is my mission in the United States, to (Continued on page 52)



Col. DeBeers piledrives Sgt. Slaughter on the arena floor after attacking him from behind as he was being interviewed.





PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING HAS long been considered remarkably free of discrimination. This is a sport where, for the most part, equal opportunities abound, where anyone of any gender or national origin can rise to the top on the basis of his ability alone.

Things aren't perfect, though. One glaring prejudice is the way the major American wrestling federations ignore the junior heavyweights. For some reason, most federation officials seem to think the lighter weight division won't draw paying customers because most of these competitors weigh less than 220 pounds. It's a logic that perplexes fans and wrestlers alike.

Because of this unwarranted bias, the public has been deprived of the pleasure of seeing top light heavyweights such as Steve Regal, Mando Guerrero, Bruce Hart, The Cheetah Kid, Jeff Jarrett, and Hiro Hase taking on other fine competitors in their weight class. Imagine seeing all of these talented men in a tournament, vying for a unified world junior heavyweight championship.

Forget it.

It isn't going to happen.

In fact, the NWA, WWF, and AWA *all* used to sanction light or junior heavyweight titles, but all three federations seem to have forgotten these championships ever existed! At least World Class knows when it has an asset. Eric Embry, the flamboyant World Class junior heavyweight champion, realizes he's in one of the best situations of his career—particularly for a 225-pound wrestler in a sport filled with massive maulers.

"I've been in other areas where they only give 275-pounders the main events and featured matches," said Embry, who has managed to keep his title despite stern challenges from top contenders like Steven Casey and Shaun Simpson. "That's why I'm glad to be here. People like me are usually either ignored, or matched against larger men we don't have a prayer of beating. The lighter wrestlers need to be able to compete with other men in their *own* weight category. In Japan, wrestlers don't have that problem."

Indeed, the major Japanese wrestling federations hold their light heavyweight titles in equal esteem with their other championships. All-Japan junior champion Masanobu Fuchi and IWGP junior titlist Shiro Koshinaka are vastly popular with both fans and promoters because of their wealth of awe-inspiring skills.

"I recently had an opportunity to wrestle for a major American federation," said Fuchi through an interpreter, "but I found out that the promoters wanted to match me with competitors who outweighed me by as much as 125 pounds. I declined the offer. I do not want to wrestle in the U.S. just to shame myself."

The worst offender in ignoring light heavyweights has to be the WWF. Former AWA junior champion Buck Zumhofe, Lanny Poffo, Scott Casey, Koko B. Ware, Sam Houston, Danny Davis, The Blue Blazer, Brady Boone, and Barry Horowitz have all competed in the federation over the past few months, but WWF promoters insist on feeding the public obvious mismatches like Ware vs. Big Bossman and Poffo vs. One Man Gang. It's a criminal waste of talent.

When will the light heavyweights get their deserved status as equals to their larger counterparts? It won't be soon, unless promoters suddenly see all the exciting matchups that exist right under their noses.

In the meantime, watch for Dino Bravo vs. Hacksaw Duggan, coming soon to a heavyweight arena near you. □



Mando Guerrero backflips Mike Ennis



Inside

# Wrestling

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# Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



**Thumbs Up** to Jimmy Snuka. Far, far away, across the Pacific Ocean in the city of Chiba, Japan, fans are wildly cheering Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka for saving All-Japan International champion Jumbo Tsuruta from the evil and dangerous Abdullah the Butcher. Abdullah was sadistically slicing Tsuruta apart with a foreign object when Tiger Mask ran in to help. Snuka then stormed the ring and helped Tiger Mask gang up on Abdullah, saving Tsuruta from a life-threatening situation.



**Thumbs Up** to Sting. Speaking of Japan, kudos go to Sting for signing on to a three-week tour of the island nation. At press time, the number-two contender to Ric Flair's NWA World title was scheduled to tour Japan in late December or early January. Sting couldn't have made a better move. By going to Japan, he'll become a more well-rounded wrestler. Earlier in his career, Flair made several trips to Japan; the effects are obvious. Japanese wrestling isn't better, but it is different. We can't wait to see how it affects "The Stinger."



**Thumbs Up** to Jimmy Hart. A conditional "Thumbs Up," that is. We give up hoping that Hart will stop concentrating on the destruction of The Hart Foundation and spend his time working with his new team, The Rougeaus. "The Mouth of the South" is undoubtedly one of the finest managers in the sport. Over the past two years, he has managed the WWF Intercontinental and World tag team champions, and even the Harts would most likely admit that they wouldn't have won the belts without him. In order to succeed, the Rougeaus require the direction that Hart can provide. Let's see what happens.



**Thumbs Up** to Rick Morton. Hot dogs and mustard, bacon and eggs, ham and cheese, Rick Morton and Robert Gibson. Some things just go naturally together—especially The Rock 'n' Roll Express. It looked like Morton and Gibson had split up for good in August, but they reunited on September 18 in Nashville, Tennessee, at a combined AWA/World Class/CWA card. Now it looks like they'll stay together. The Rock 'n' Rolls are scheduled for a tour of Japan and plan to go after the AWA World tag belts. After nearly a year of turmoil, Gibson and Morton are ready to settle down. That's certainly good for wrestling!

# Thumbs Down



*Thumbs Down* to Bobby Heenan. For shame, "Brain"! Your unconscionable attempt to sell Hercules Hernandez as a slave to Ted DiBiase takes wrestling back to the pre-Civil War era, when men were treated like chattel. Well, as Hercules is about to let you know, people can't be bought and sold. How dare you try to sell Hernandez to Ted DiBiase! Hernandez took you on as his *manager*, he didn't give you title and deed to his soul. As for DiBiase, well, we all know about "The Million-Dollar Man." His reputation for buying and selling people is a black mark on pro wrestling.



*Thumbs Down* to Jerry Lawler. Thanks, "King"! Thanks for making us look like a bunch of idiots! Last month we gave you a "Thumbs Up" for returning the World Class championship belt to Kerry Von Erich when you realized that your pinfall victory was illegal. Well, it looks like we spoke too soon. Since then, you slugged Kerry before a match with a loaded black glove, and you threw fire at your former friend Buddy Landell. You're no longer "King" of *anything*. You've embarrassed us all.



*Thumbs Down* to Col. DeBeers. Boy, does this guy have a chip on his shoulder! If a person isn't white and South African, DeBeers will find a reason to hate him. Now Sgt. Slaughter, the all-American flag-waving fan favorite, has taken Jimmy Snuka's place on DeBeers' hit list. DeBeers recently attacked Slaughter twice in one night, including a piledriver on the concrete floor! Slaughter was taken away on a stretcher with a possible concussion, the helpless victim of a cowardly blindsight assault. DeBeers seems to have one goal: maiming his enemies. For this he should be eternally condemned!



*Thumbs Down* to J.J. Dillon. While we try to avoid condemning a man to our roll call of shame for two consecutive months, the recent turn of events in the NWA gave us little choice. Who is to blame for Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson leaving the NWA for the WWF? And who was to blame when Ole Anderson and Lex Luger left The Four Horsemen? The answer is obvious: J.J. Dillon. Over the past two years, Dillon, the manager of the Horsemen, has displayed a complete inability to keep this unit together. Very simply: if he takes credit for their successes, he must take blame for their failures. □

# CORRESPONDENTS

# REPORTS

Landover, MD (*Correspondent—Randy Meek*): The Capital Centre shook as WWF champion Randy Savage entered the ring to defend his title against "The Eighth Wonder of the World," Andre the Giant. Bobby Heenan accompanied Andre to ringside, but was sent back to the dressing room by referee Joey Morella when he kept chasing Elizabeth.

When the ring action started, Andre clearly dominated Savage. Indeed, many fans must have thought Andre would capture the championship this night. Andre used chokes and punches to wear Savage down, then trapped him in the corner and sat on him; the fans groaned loudly.

After trying unsuccessfully to slam Andre, Savage rallied and soon delivered his flying elbowdrop from the top rope. When the "Macho Man" went for the pin, Andre easily threw him off. But Andre was still stunned from the elbowdrop, which enabled Savage to knock him out of the ring with an elbowsmash. Savage followed Andre out, but got back in the ring at the count of six.

Then Andre grabbed Elizabeth, forcing Savage to leave the ring again. This time, both Savage and Andre were counted out. Andre left the ring with the belt, but



Andre the Giant blasts WWF World champion Randy Savage. They squared off recently at Maryland's Capital Centre.

Savage was still the champion.

In other bouts: The Ultimate Warrior defeated The Honky Tonk Man by DQ ... The Powers of Pain beat The Bolsheviks ... The Rougeaus beat The Hart Foundation ... Tito Santana wrestled to a draw against King Haku ... Big Bossman defeated Sam Houston ... Terry Taylor defeated D.J. Peterson ... Curt Hennig pinned Lanny Poffo.

Oakland, CA (*Correspondent—Jason Breshears*): Nikita Koloff faced Al Perez in a Russian chain match that was packed with all-out action. Koloff had control of the match at the start until Perez attacked his ribs. Koloff recovered and dragged Perez around to three turnbuckles, until Perez broke Koloff's stride by attacking him from the mat. From that point on it was a seesaw battle, with both men tagging three of the turnbuckles, but failing to reach the fourth.

At the end, Koloff was about to tag the fourth and final turnbuckle when Gary Hart interfered and Perez threw Koloff into the referee. Perez then grabbed Koloff and dragged him to three turnbuckles; Hart dragged Nikita to the fourth.

The referee didn't allow the victory, though. Nikita clotheslined Perez, dragged him to all four turnbuckles, and won the match. But Koloff left the arena that night in pain, because Perez and Hart worked him over and threw him over the top rope after the match was through.

In other bouts: Dick Murdoch and Ronnie Garvin battled to a time-limit draw ... Jim Garvin pinned Kevin Sullivan ... Steve Williams wrestled Mike Rotundo

(Continued on page 62)

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD FANS!

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**November 1982**/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

**December 1982**/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

**January 1983**/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

**February 1983**/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

**April 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

**May 1983**/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

**June 1983**/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

**July 1983**/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

**August 1983**/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

**September 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

**October 1983**/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

**November 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

**December 1983**/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

**January 1984**/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

**March 1984**/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

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**June 1984**/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

**July 1984**/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

**August 1984**/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

**September 1984**/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

**October 1984**/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

**November 1984**/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

**December 1984**/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.



## JANUARY 1985

**January 1985**/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

**February 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

**March 1985**/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

**April 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

**May 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

**June 1985**/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

**July 1985**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

**August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION!** Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

**September 1985**/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

**October 1985**/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

**November 1985**/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

**December 1985**/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

**January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue!** Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

**February 1986**/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

**March 1986**/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

**April 1986**/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

**May 1986**/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

**June 1986**/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

**July 1986**/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

**August 1986**/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

**September 1986**/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

**January 1987**/Stories include: Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

**February 1987**/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

**March 1987**/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

**April 1987**/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

**May 1987**/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

**June 1987**/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

**July 1987**/Stories include: Comette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

**August 1987**/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

**September 1987**/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

**October 1987**/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

**November 1987**/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

**December 1987**/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

**January 1988**/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

**February 1988**/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

**March 1988**/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

**April 1988/Special issue!** Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

**May 1988**/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

**June 1988**/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

**July 1988**/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

**August 1988**/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

**September 1988**/Stories include: Dugan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

**October 1988**/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

**November 1988**/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

**OCTOBER 1986**

**October 1986**/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

**November 1986**/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

**December 1986**/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

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**Q:** "I'd like to ask Jim Cornette how he feels now that The Midnight Express has run Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson out of the NWA and taken their World title."—Andrew Murray, New York

**A:** "Well, let me tell you, Andy," Cornette exclaimed, "I'm happier than a calf with a full udder. I want you to know, I want *everyone* to know, how proud I am of 'Beautiful' Bobby Eaton and 'Sweet' Stan Lane and their impressive belt-stripping victory. Those boys make me feel just like the mastermind I am. I caught a lot of criticism from everyone when I challenged The Four Horsemen. Everyone said, 'Oh, Jimmy. Look out. You might get hurt. *Ooooh*, can we help you? You sure you're doing the right thing? Huh, Jimmy? You be careful now . . .' Well, those people can kiss my racket for all I care! I guess we showed those sissy boys now, didn't we? My, my, it feels so good!"

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I would like to know Stu Saks' opinion on this vital question: What do you think is next for Greg Valentine now that Valentine's rival, The Ultimate Warrior, has won the Intercontinental belt?"—Robert Huse, Randolph Center, VT

**A:** "Valentine is in a tough position in his career," Saks said. "Once an extremely gifted wrestler, he has not aged well. He's a step or two slower than his prime, and he doesn't have the strength he once commanded. Also, he's so bogged down in a feud with Don Muraco that he is almost completely ignored by the WWF matchmakers. It's these matchmakers who could help put Valentine in line for a title shot. I have every reason to believe a series of matches with new Intercontinental champ Ultimate Warrior could be both exciting and profitable for Valentine, but as yet he has shown no interest. That surprises me, because Valentine still

# YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers ALL your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.



Greg Valentine hammers Don Muraco. Oddly enough, Valentine does not seem to be interested in going after The Ultimate Warrior's Intercontinental title.

wrestles with an amazing amount of fury. Why he wastes his time with Muraco is incomprehensible to anybody but him. When he's ready, I'm sure the matchmakers will entertain Valentine's plans to wrestle for the I-C title. Until then, he's stagnating."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I've been a fan of Steve Regal for years, and my question is for him. Although you've been successful everywhere you've gone, Steve, where would you say you've enjoyed the most success?"—Todd Hill, Hillsboro, OR

**A:** "Well, thanks for the kind words, Todd," answered Regal. "I have to say that my current situation is by far the best. That's not putting down some of the other federations



Windy City Wrestling champion Steve Regal always keeps close tabs on Paul E. Dangerously and his men.

I've wrestled with, but right now I'm champion of Windy City Wrestling, and I've had the opportunity to wrestle against some of the biggest names in the business. And I'm still champion. Eddie Gilbert's blown into this town with his sadistic friends like Paul E. Dangerously and Col. DeBeers, but

(Continued on page 63)

# BACK ISSUES OF



**November 1980/**Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

**January 1981/**Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

**April 1981/**Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

**May 1981/**Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

**June 1981/**Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

**September 1981/**Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

**January 1982/**Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdinck.

**February 1982/**Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

**March 1982/**Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

**April 1982/**Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

**May 1982/**Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

**June 1982/**Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

**July 1982/**Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

**August 1982/**Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

**September 1982/**Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

**October 1982/**Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

**November 1982/**Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

**December 1982/**Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

**February 1983/**Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

**March 1983/**Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

**April 1983/**Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

**May 1983/**Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

**June 1983/**Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

**July 1983/**Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

**August 1983/**Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

**September 1983/**Stories include: Zbysko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

**October 1983/**Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

**November 1983/**Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

**December 1983/**Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

**March 1984/**Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

**April 1984/**Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.



**AUGUST 1984**

**May 1984/**Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

**June 1984/**Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

**July 1984/**Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

**August 1984/**Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

**September 1984/**Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

**October 1984/**Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

**November 1984/**Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

**December 1984/**Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

**January 1985/**Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

**February 1985/**Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

**March 1985/**Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

**April 1985/**Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

**May 1985/**Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

**June 1985/**Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

**July 1985/**Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

**August 1985/**Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbysko vs. The Tonga Kid.

**September 1985/**Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

**October 1985/**Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

**November 1985/**Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

**December 1985/**Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

**January 1986/**Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

**February 1986/**Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

**March 1986/**Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

**April 1986/**Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

**May 1986/**Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.

**June 1986/**Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

**July 1986/**All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

**August 1986/**Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvin, Martel, Fab Ones.

**September 1986/**Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

**October 1986/**Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

**November 1986/**Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

**December 1986/**Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

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**January 1987/**Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

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**May 1987/**Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

**June 1987/**Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

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**August 1987/**Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

**September 1987/**Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

**October 1987/**Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

**November 1987/**Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

**December 1987/**Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

**January 1988/**Stories include: R&R Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

**February 1988/**Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

**March 1988/**Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

**April 1988/**Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-Dibiase.

**May 1988/**Stories include: Zbysko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

**June 1988/**Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

**July 1988/**Stories include: Hogan-Savage-Dibiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

**August 1988/**Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.

**September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE:** Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

**October 1988/**Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.

**November 1988/**Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

**December 1988/**Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.

## INSIDE WRESTLING

- NOV 80
- JULY 83
- AUG 85
- SEPT 85
- OCT 85
- NOV 85
- DEC 85
- JAN 86
- FEB 86
- MAR 86
- APR 86
- MAY 86
- JUNE 84
- JULY 84
- AUG 84
- SEPTEMBER 84
- OCT 84
- NOV 84
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- FEB 85
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# INTRODUCING DUSTIN RHODES

Photos by Duane Long

"IT'S ABSOLUTELY amazing," says veteran wrestling journalist Matt Brock. "It's like 1970 all over again! He's got the same moves, the same charisma, and the same talent as his father! Incredible!"

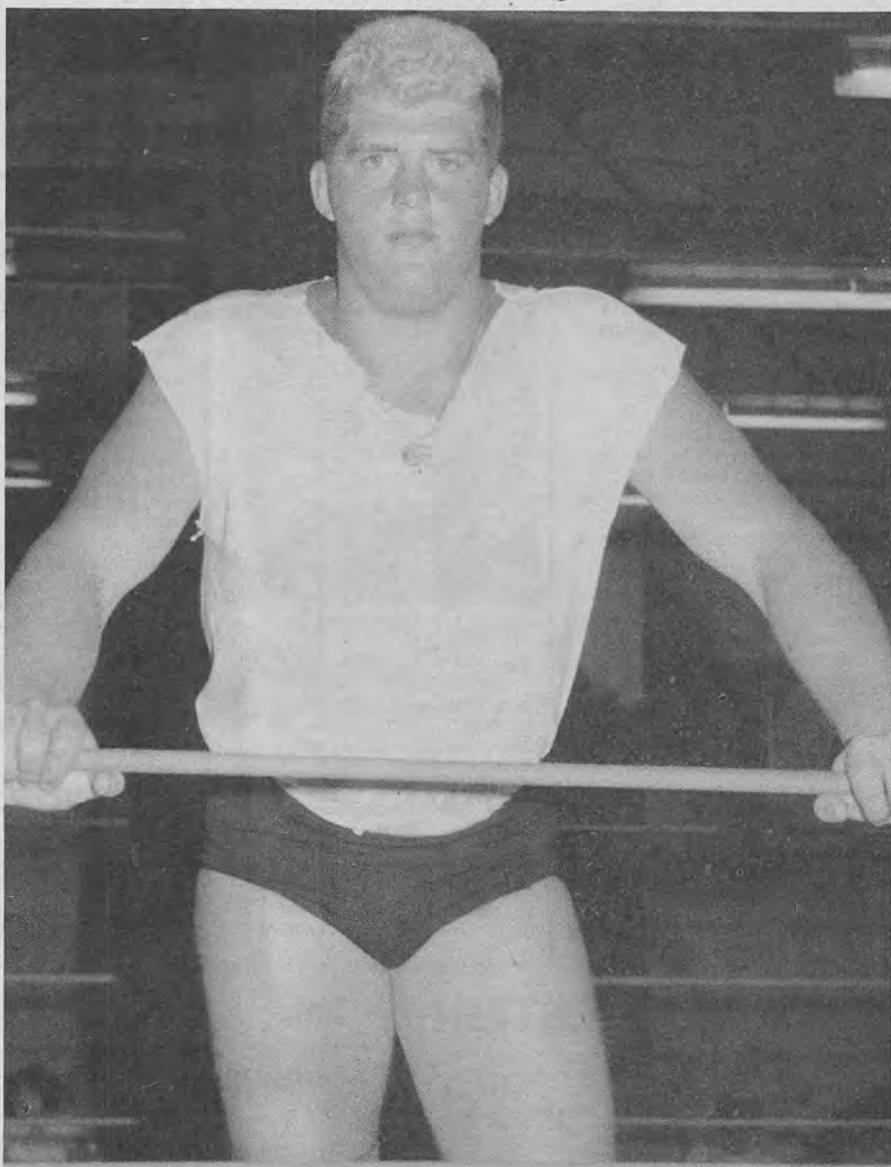
It takes quite a talent to make the acerbic Brock speak in such glowing terms. But in the case of 22-year-old Dustin Rhodes, son of three-time former NWA World champion Dusty Rhodes, it's easy to see why Brock was impressed. Since making his professional debut in September, Dustin has wasted no time in letting the world know his intentions.

"I'm just keepin' the American dream alive!" laughed Dustin, who stands 6'5" and weighs 254 pounds. "I know there's a big curiosity factor about me right now, because everybody wants to see if I look and wrestle like my father. Well, I do—but I'm determined to stand on my own two feet."

The elder Rhodes has been instrumental in helping Dustin do just that. A multi-sport standout during his high school years, Dustin often expressed his desire to become a professional wrestler. Dusty, however, was determined not to let his offspring get started too early.

"I don't want Dustin to make the same mistakes I did," Dusty explained after his son's debut. "Just 'cause his

(Continued on page 58)



Dustin Rhodes bears a striking resemblance to his famous father, "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes. Dustin, who wrestles in a similar style to Dusty, is starting his career in Florida, where his father achieved great fame.

**"The American Dream" has only just begun! Dustin Rhodes, the son of legendary superstar Dusty Rhodes, has made his professional debut! And Dustin is determined to carry out the mission that his famous father started**



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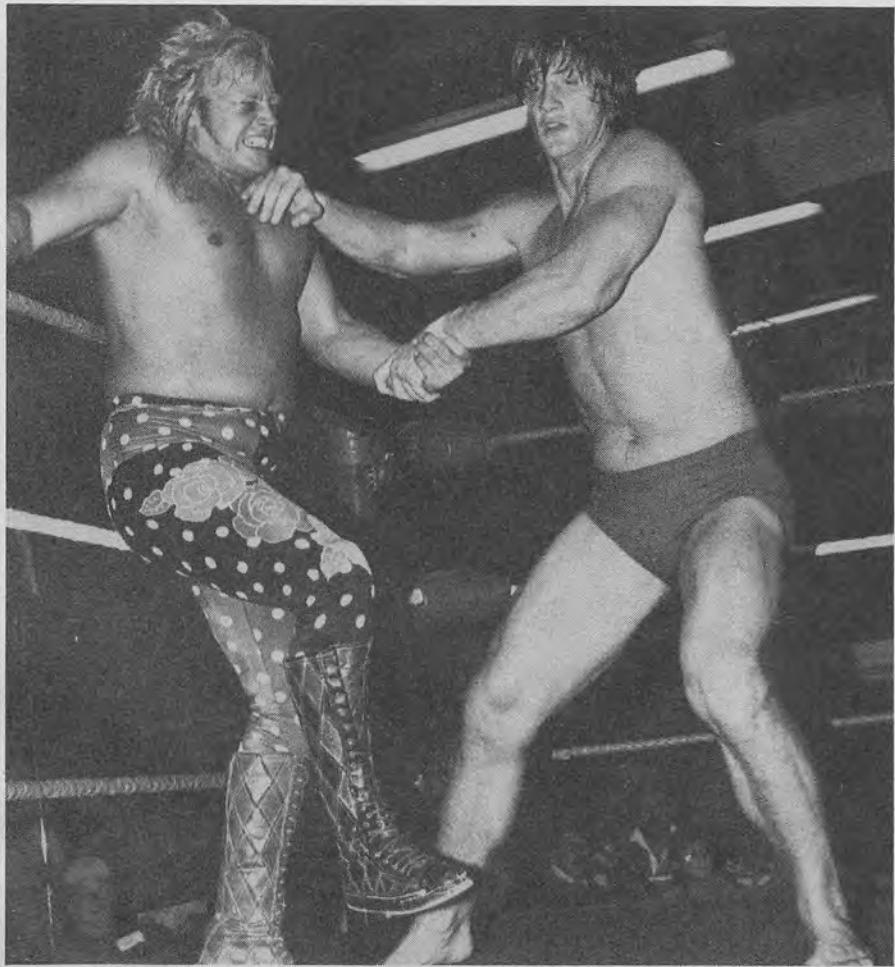
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# Q&A

Each month,  
*The Wrestler* will  
present a "Question and  
Answer" forum with an important  
figure in the wrestling world. It is your  
chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars  
as they answer the questions uppermost in  
the fans' minds



Kevin Von Erich whips Adrian Street across the ring. After this match in Cleveland, Von Erich checked himself into a hospital. He was suffering from post-concussion syndrome.

**Q:** Kevin, I think I speak for all the fans when I say that I'm very glad to find out you're going to be all right. People all across the country were very concerned about you.

**A:** Thanks, Bob. You know, my family has had to endure several serious problems over the last few years, and just knowing that the fans are concerned about us makes everything a whole lot easier. Even though we didn't announce I was in the hospital, I still received a flood of cards and letters. I don't know where I'd be without the people out there.

**Q:** A lot of people didn't know where you were for a few weeks. I understand that you admitted yourself to the hospital.

**A:** That's right. I was having a great deal of discomfort after I wrestled with Michael Hayes against Adrian Street and The Masked Spoiler in Cleveland, and I checked into a hospital there. The next day I flew back home and checked in to Baylor. I underwent a whole series of tests, and it was determined that I'm suffering from something called post-concussion syndrome.

**Q:** What is that?

**A:** Well, as you know, I've spent most of my life as an athlete. Back when I was playing football during my college days, I suffered a few concussions. I had some tests and figured my problems were over. During the last few months, I've had

# KEVIN VON ERICH

**B**AD NEWS FOR World Class rulebreakers: Kevin Von Erich is back!

For several weeks during the fall, fans all over Texas were very concerned about this popular star. At card after card, Von Erich failed to appear for important matches. Then it was learned that Von Erich had been admitted to Baylor Medical Center in Dallas with an undisclosed ailment.

Thankfully, Von Erich is now up and around once again. The former World Class and Texas champion was diagnosed as suffering from post-concussion syndrome, a painful, potentially serious condition that required him to stay away from all wrestling activities.

Being the determined man that he is, Von Erich has vowed to rid World Class of its rule-breaking element, especially Gen. Skandor Akbar and his savages: Kamala, The Beast, and Iceman Parsons. But, being the realist that he is, Von Erich announced that it would be several weeks before he could return to the ring wars. In the meantime, he has been busy advising his brother Kerry, the current World Class champion, in his battles against AWA

World champion Jerry Lawler.

Assistant Editor Bob Smith spoke with Von Erich in Dallas, where the wrestler explained his recent maladies and talked about his future.

some loud ringing in both my ears.

**Q:** That kind of problem must have made it hard to wrestle.

**A:** It sure did—extremely hard. You can't concentrate when your equilibrium is messed up. As it turns out, I've had a lot of small concussions during my wrestling career, but I didn't realize it. I just thought I had some bad headaches. Then, a few weeks ago, the suffering became so intense that I just had to get help.

**Q:** This condition sounds pretty serious.

**A:** Actually, it is—much more serious than I had imagined. I was pretty foolish for letting things go as long as I did, but I'm smart enough not to jeopardize my wrestling career—or my life. I'm going to take a few more weeks off. I'm not even getting *near* that ring until I'm at 100 percent capacity. The doctors tell me that I'm progressing nicely, but that I really shouldn't wrestle until everything has cleared up.

**Q:** Is there any chance that you might have to leave wrestling because of this condition?

**A:** There's a small chance that I might have to quit. But I'm not even thinking in those terms right now. All I'm doing is getting myself back into shape, gradually honing my body back into fighting form.

**Q:** The big thing on the minds of a lot of the fans is when you're going to make your return. Do you have



Kamala, one of Gen. Skandor Akbar's charges, raps Von Erich in the face. Von Erich wants to rid World Class of Akbar and his men before they spread their influence further.

any target date set?

**A:** Well, I'm earmarking October 15 against Brian Adias at The Cotton Bowl, but it would be foolish to say I'll definitely be there. This injury is different than a lot of other types of problems in that I'm really the only one who can determine when I'm ready. It'll be up to me to decide when I return, but believe me, there's nothing I want more than to get back in that ring. There's always the chance that I'll be wrestling again by the time most of the fans are reading this.

**Q:** That's good news for all of your fans, especially when you consider everything that's been happening in World Class over the past couple

of months. It seems that Gen. Skandor Akbar has more power than ever.

**A:** Yes, and it's just terrible, isn't it? Kamala was bad enough, but now Akbar has brought in another African wrestler called The Beast. I don't know where he gets these monsters from, but I don't want these kind of people lurking around World Class. These men don't care about rules, or the fans, or even titles. Akbar just wants to hurt and injure wrestlers, and with those two and Iceman Parsons in his stable, he's been doing a lot of that. Akbar was the man who was responsible for Parsons beating Kerry for my Texas title as well.



Von Erich puts a chinlock on Brian Adias (above); these former friends were scheduled to wrestle at The Cotton Bowl in October. Kevin longs to return to the days when he was World Class champion (opposite page), but he must overcome another serious injury.

I've got a big score to settle with Akbar, and I can't wait to get my hands on him.

**Q:** Akbar is taking quite a bit of credit for your injury, I understand.

**A:** That's a lie! It's true that Kamala and I have been in some wars, and I'm sure they contributed to my condition. But it's just like Akbar to take credit for an injury that I'd been carrying around for months. But the more he talks, the more he gets a lot of people mad at him. Steve Cox, Bill Irwin, Kendall Windham, and my brother Kerry

are all vying for shots against Akbar's men. I'd be more than happy to help *all* of them in any way I can.

**Q:** Akbar's men aren't the only ones you've had your share of trouble with. Buddy Roberts and his Samoan Swat Team continue to hold the World Class tag team title they won from you and Kerry.

**A:** That's a real shame. Those Samoans cheated to defeat us after we proudly defended that title for months. Michael Hayes and Steve Cox have been doing a fine job

against them, but in my heart I'll always feel like the World Class tag team title is *our* title, meaning me and Kerry.

**Q:** Speaking of your brother, he's had quite a time taking on Jerry Lawler, hasn't he? The belt vs. belt matches have been the talk of the wrestling world, and now they've been signed as the main event for SuperClash III on December 13 in Chicago. What are your impressions of the Kerry-Lawler matches so far?

**A:** To be honest with you, I've been shocked at the way Jerry Lawler has been conducting himself lately. I've been following his career for years, and I've always considered him one of the great sportsmen of our time. But I think the pressure of defending that title has driven him over the edge. Lawler obviously hit Kerry with a foreign object he had tucked into his black glove when he sucker-punched him at The Sportatorium. I can't believe it! Kerry has been quick to forgive Lawler for his actions, but if it was me, I'd be a bit more cautious. It took Lawler 18 years to become a champion, and now he wants to keep that AWA belt any way he can.

**Q:** Speaking of the title, Kerry says that he considers the World Class championship an equal to the AWA belt. How do you feel about that?

**A:** I agree with Kerry. Lawler has been making a big deal about how he's been traveling the world, taking on the best competition he can find. Well, World Class has always had an open-door policy for its champions. The promoters here have continuously welcomed wrestlers from other federations to come in and try to win our titles. That's something we've never gotten enough credit for here in Texas. I think that's why Kendall Windham, who was getting lost in the NWA, decided to come here and challenge Eric Embry for his light heavyweight title. He's a great

young talent, and he knows he's going to get a fair shot. That's the way we do things here. It's an equal opportunity operation.

Q: And a lot of the fans are looking forward to the opportunity to see you in the ring again. People are saying it's just not the same without you in World Class.



A: That's very nice, and I feel the same way—things just aren't the same without the fans. It's through their cards, their prayers, and their caring that I've been able to come through this problem the way I have. But that's the way of World Class fans. Whether you're wrestling, or sick in the hospital, or just walking down the street, they always go out of their way to make sure you know they care about you. Men like Akbar and Roberts can scream and holler all they want about 'em, but I *love* the fans. I know they love me, too, and that's why I've got to reward them.

Q: How will you do that?

A: By coming back and regaining that Texas title. Iceman Parsons and his camel-jockey manager had better keep one eye over their shoulders all the time, because I'm coming back. And there's nothing they can do to stop me. □

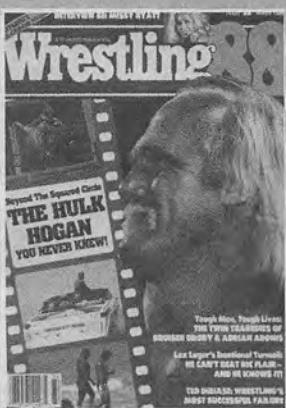
# Wrestling '88

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## Wrestling 88

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# The Wrestler SPOTLIGHTS... THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

**W**HEN HE DEFEATED *The Honky Tonk Man* in 31 seconds to win the WWF Intercontinental title, *The Ultimate Warrior* clearly established himself as a major new force on the wrestling scene. Indeed, this 6'4", 280-pound mountain of muscle has enjoyed a quick and startling rise to the top.

*The Warrior* began his career in 1985 as a member of Powerteam U.S.A., a quartet of wrestlers that included the NWA's *Sting*. Eventually, *Warrior* and *Sting* formed their own tag team, *The Freedom Fighters*. Wrestling under the names *Rock* and *Flash*, they cut a path of destruction through the Mid-Southern area. Changing the team's name to *The Blade Runners*, they moved to the Mid-South area and began applying makeup to their faces before each match, a practice both men continue today.

When Eddie Gilbert began to manage the team in 1986, the *Warrior* decided to go out on his own. Moving to *World Class*, he changed his name to *Dingo Warrior* and took Gary Hart on as his manager. Later, he became the third member of Percy Pringle's stable along with Matt Borne and Buzz Sawyer, but broke up with Pringle and his men during a six-man tag match in Dallas. That was when the fans first began rallying to his side.

*The Warrior* won his first title when he teamed with Lance Von Erich to win the *World Class* tag team belts



*The Ultimate Warrior* displays his prodigious strength by pressing Hercules cleanly overhead. Several wins over Hercules preceded the *Warrior*'s Intercontinental title victory.

from Borne and Master Gee on November 17, 1986. Two months after he and Von Erich lost the title to Al Madril and Brian Adias, *Warrior* defeated Bob Bradley to capture the Tex-as title.

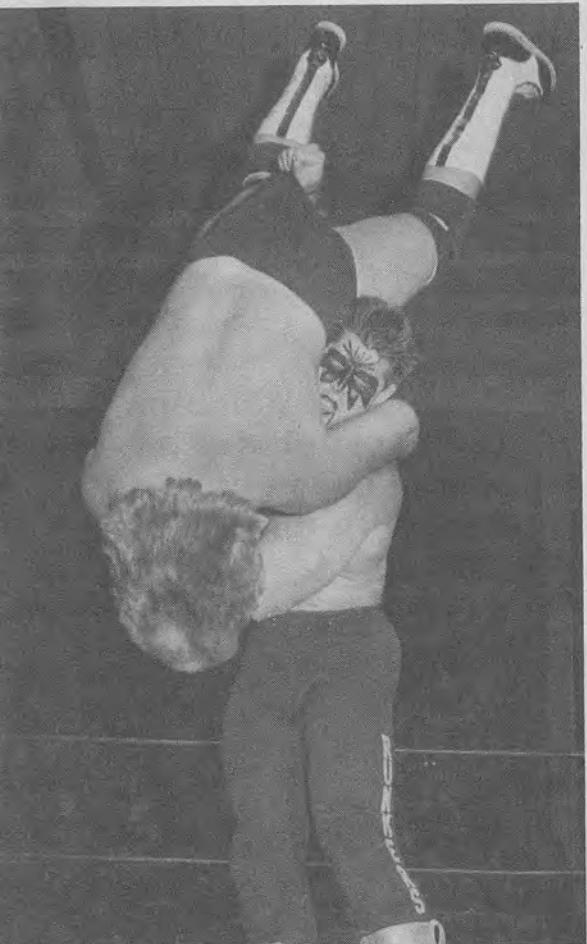
In April 1987, the championship was stripped from him due to a lack of title defenses, but he was reinstated by *World Class* officials on May 25. On June 21 in Caguas, Puerto Rico, *Warrior* lost the belt to Al Perez.

After the loss, the *Warrior* left *World Class*. Several weeks later, he joined the WWF and changed his name to *The Ultimate Warrior*. Instead of immediately taking on big-time competition, the *Warrior* wrestled in preliminary matches for several months before making his first major arena appearance. He proved he was a seri-

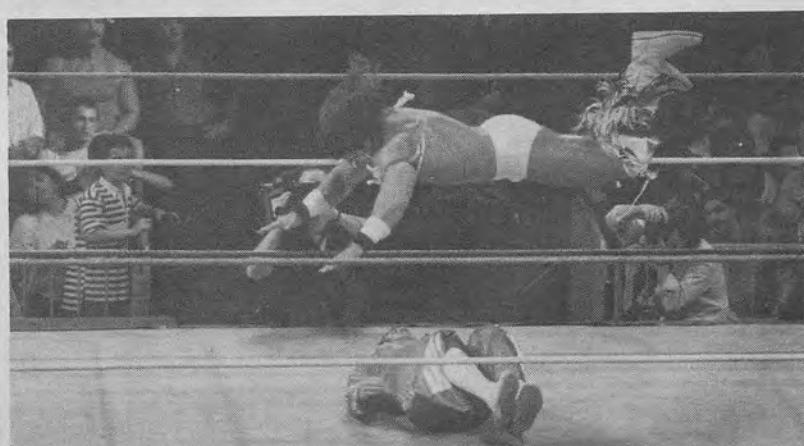
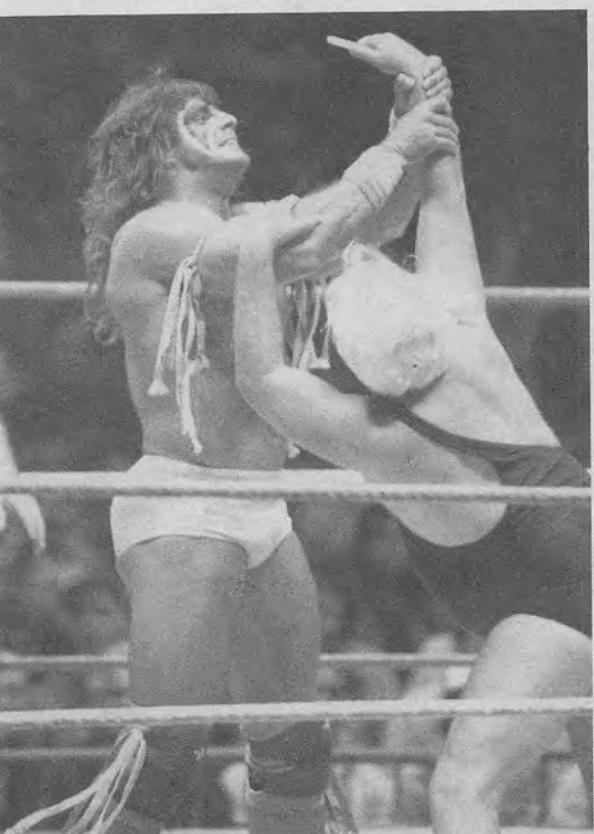
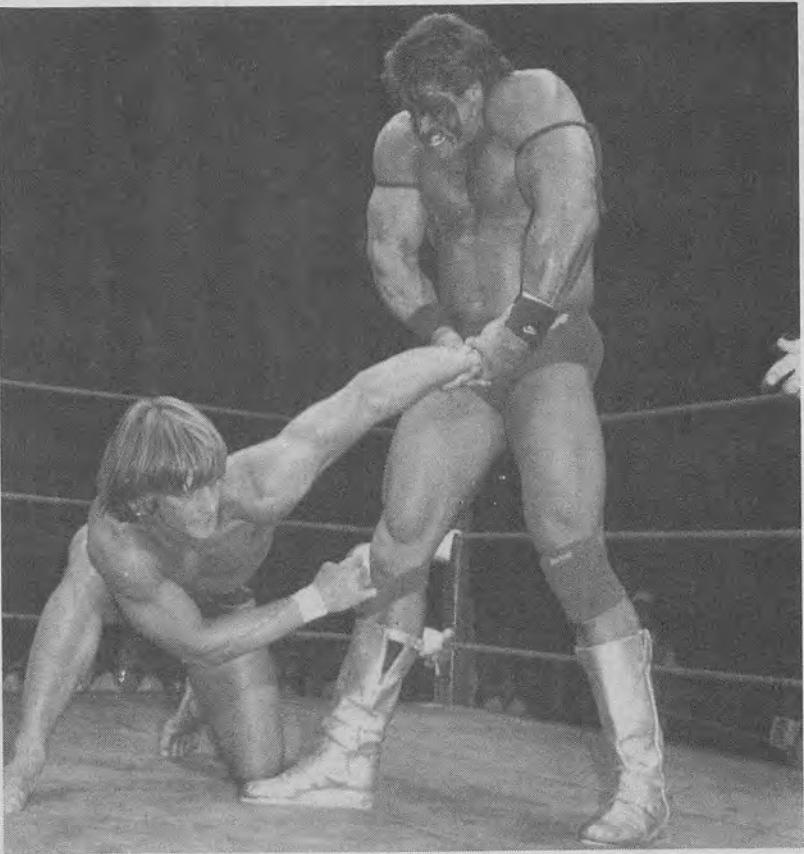
ous contender by scoring a series of convincing victories over Harley Race in February and March of 1988, and by cleanly pinning Hercules at Madison Square Garden in April.

*Warrior*'s date with destiny came on August 29, 1988, at *SummerSlam 88*. He had not been scheduled to appear on the card, but received a shot at *Honky Tonk* as a last-minute substitute for *Brutus Beefcake*, who had been injured by Ron Bass in a previous match. Taking advantage of *Honky Tonk*'s surprise, the *Warrior* stormed the ring and dispatched *Honky Tonk* in record time.

This month, *The Wrestler* places the spotlight on *The Ultimate Warrior* as he begins what promises to be a long and glorious Intercontinental title reign.



The Warrior—as Blade Runner Rock—slams Ted DiBiase (left). As Dingo Warrior, he armbars Kevin Von Erich (below). Ultimate Warrior has changed his look several times, but he hasn't changed his unrelenting style.

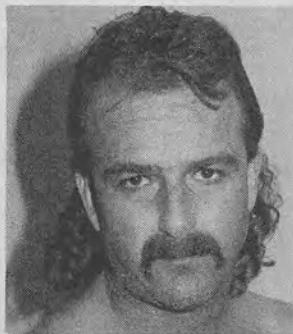


Ultimate stops Bobby Heenan from using a foreign object (above). The Warrior pulls Bob Bradley off the ropes (top right). A big splash from the Warrior finishes The Honky Tonk Man (right).

## THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

# RAY

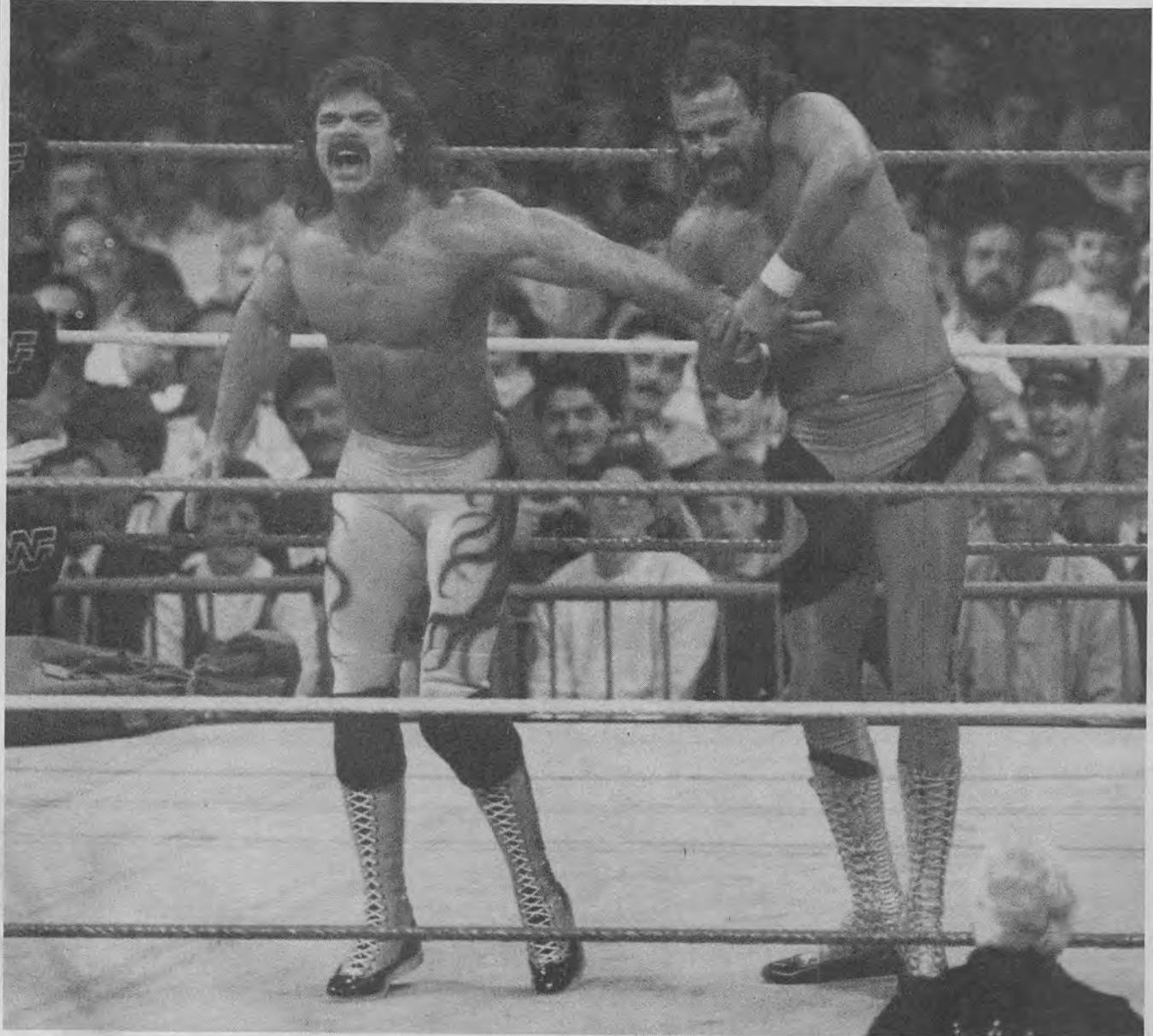
of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



### JAKE ROBERTS

Each month

THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one



Jake "The Snake" Roberts armbars Rick Rude, who has been making lewd advances on Jake's wife, Cheryl. Roberts has vowed that Rude will never lay a hand on Mrs. Roberts, but "The Ravishing One" won't stop trying to win her heart.



### CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"To be honest with you, I never thought much about Roberts' ring skills. When he first entered the WWF, he was the most feared guy around, but mainly because he was scaring the daylights out of everybody with his snake, Damien. But now he's showing his true colors by defending his wife, Cheryl, from that evil Rick Rude. Love has made him a more powerful force, and it's just what I like to see, daddy! Jake has really proved the Captain wrong."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



### LARRY HENNIG

"For years, Roberts was one of my favorites. But something weird has happened to him over the last year or so. He's waving at the fans, signing autographs, and appearing on children's cartoon shows. What's with this guy? Roberts never talks about getting title shots anymore. He really needs to rekindle his mean streak to be a contender. But if he loses that, he could become just another wrestler. And that would be a real shame."

Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



### KILLER KOWALSKI

"I usually don't go for fan favorites like Roberts, but this is one man that everybody should stay away from. Roberts has a sadistic streak that's very rare in wrestling these days, especially for someone who gets cheered. When he delivers that skull-bashing DDT of his, his eyes light up like a Christmas tree. Then, when he wraps that snake around the throat of his opponent, he's in an obvious state of delight. He's really sick—a man after my own heart."

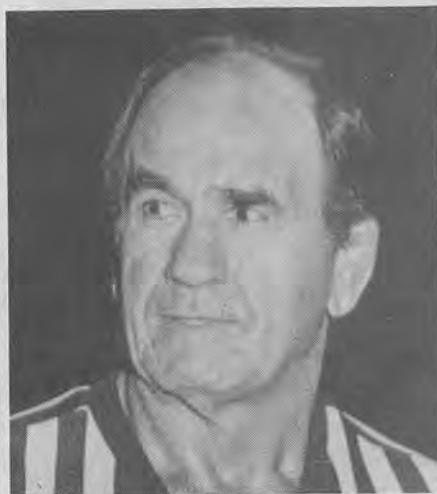
Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



### PROF. TORU TANAKA

"Skinny American has no talent, no skill, and no stamina. I believe those attributes are more than enough to qualify Roberts as a hero in the United States, eh? He also prove his cowardice by bringing snake to ring in effort to demoralize his opponents. He knows no karate, and shows no discipline in the ring. He needs more body weight, knowledge, and courage to become champion in mat game. Fine Japanese wrestlers could pulverize Roberts into fine powder."

Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



### LOU THESZ

"A lot of people wonder who was the first wrestler to use the DDT. I'm not sure, but the man who perfected it was Roberts. This incredible maneuver is every bit as devastating as a full-fledged piledriver, but the DDT is easier to apply because you only need to catch your opponent off guard to put it on him. There are a lot of wrestlers using variations of the DDT now, but Roberts should get the credit for perfecting this classic wrestling maneuver."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

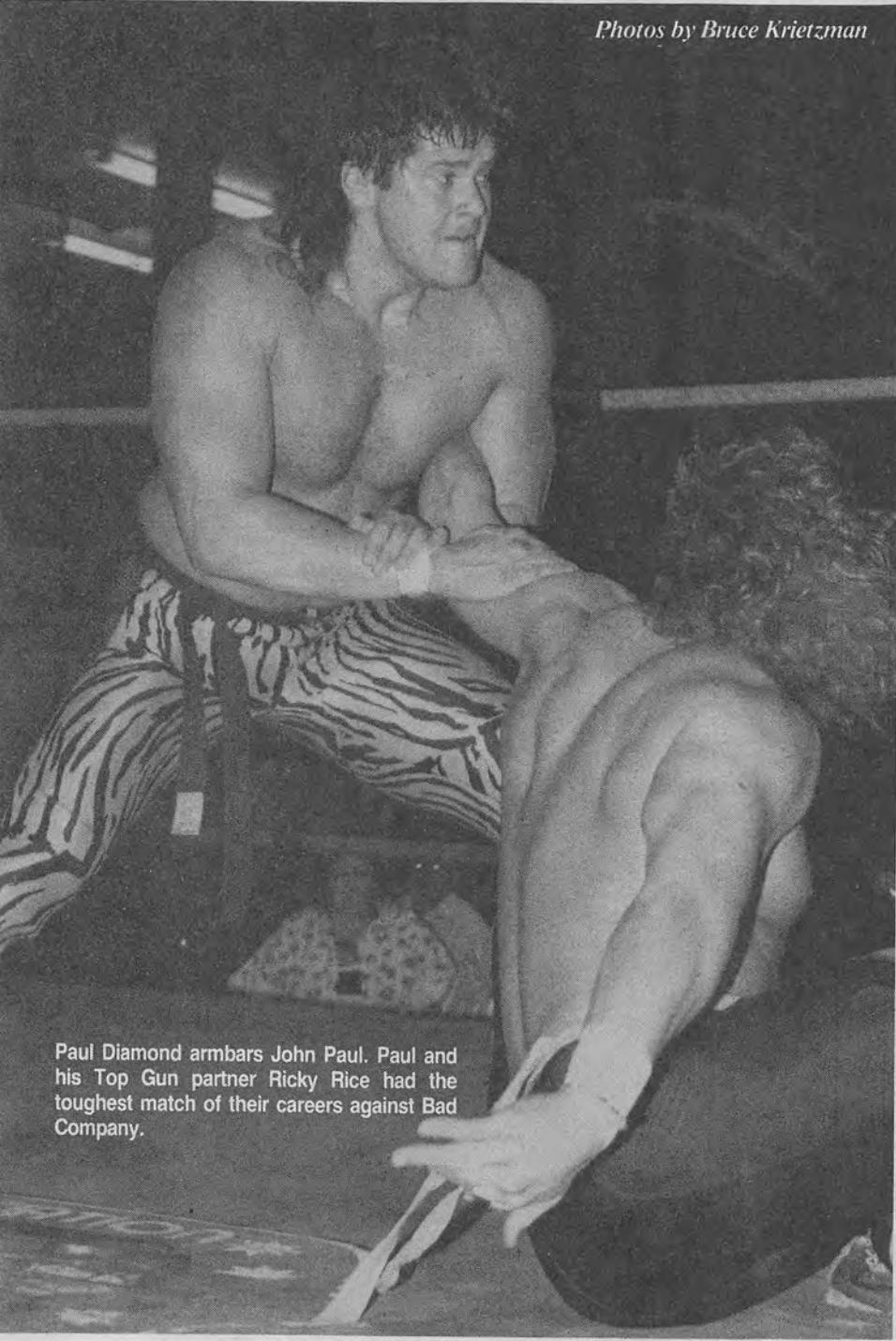


### JACK BRISCO

"Roberts is underrated because of all the garish things he surrounds himself with. This man shows tremendous fighting heart. Did you see him rally from behind to beat Hercules at SummerSlam 88? That was a perfect example of why Roberts is so dangerous. Right when you think you have his number, he slips a DDT on you and you're history. I really think he should set his efforts on becoming a champion. He's definitely got the talent."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

*Photos by Bruce Krietzman*



Paul Diamond armbars John Paul. Paul and his Top Gun partner Ricky Rice had the toughest match of their careers against Bad Company.

# With The AWA Belts In Their Sights... **THE TOP GUNS MISFIRE**

## **AGAINST BAD COMPANY**

The Top Guns—John Paul and Ricky Rice—were flying high after learning they had become the top contenders for the AWA World tag team title. But the champions, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond, taught the youngsters a serious lesson about championship wrestling, one they may not get another chance to learn!

**“W**HAT? WHO? YOU’VE got to be kidding! Do you have any idea what you’re talking about?”

“Diamond” Dallas Page, the wily manager of AWA World tag team champions Bad Company, stared into the telephone receiver. Angered by being called early in the morning, he considered hanging up. But something made him hear out the administrator on the other end.

“You heard exactly what I said, Page,” replied flustered AWA President Stanley Blackburn. “You may be the manager of the champions, but only the championship committee decides who the top contenders are. I’ll say it only one more time: The Top Guns are the number-one contenders to your championship. You signed an open contract for title defenses, and I’m assigning your team to wrestle them in Minnesota later this week.”

Page was silent for a few moments, then exploded in anger.

“How can you give a title match to a couple of little boys?” the arrogant Page bellowed. “These Top Guns look more like water pistols to me! Blackburn, you must be *nuts*. There’s *nothin’* worse than a senile old fool, unless it’s a couple of young punks who don’t deserve diddly-squat!”

With that, Page slammed down the phone. He had insulted the abilities of Ricky Rice and John Paul, but his bravura in doing so may have concealed pure fear.

Rice and Paul deserve their status as top contenders. They’ve amassed a superior won-loss record as a team, startling the AWA with their combination of youthful exuberance and high-flying ability. And while they are young, they are also far more knowledgeable than their ages would suggest.

Still rookies, Rice and Paul have known each other since childhood. The two Minnesota natives have trained and worked out together daily for the past several years. The designation as top contenders was something they had strived for since beginning their careers earlier this year.

“‘Top Guns’ was a natural name for

Pat Tanaka armbars Rice. Bad Company's acrobatic and brutal style was too much for The Top Guns, themselves a high-flying team.



this team,” recalled Paul. “We soar over the top of our opponents, just like the jet fighter in the movie *Top Gun*. Since we’re also best friends, each of us knows exactly what the other’s going to do all the time. We’re flying right to that World title, baby. Those guys won’t stand a chance in front of our hometown fans.”

Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond had other plans. Page, angered by what he felt was an unwarranted title shot, instilled a frightening killer instinct into Bad Company during the days before

the match.

“There’s no way those pups have a prayer against men of our stature,” said a livid Page before the match. “After tonight, those guys won’t even be rated by the census bureau! We’re gonna kill ‘em!”

Displaying the talent and savagery that have made them one of the best teams in the sport, Diamond and Tanaka pulled out every weapon in their offensive arsenal during this wild bout. It was a clear case of what can happen

(Continued on page 50)

**T**HE STORY, AS some have told it, says that at Jimmy Hart's most recent physical exam, Hart's doctor found some irregularities in his patient's electrocardiogram. The doctor was understandably worried.

"Jimmy," the doctor reportedly said, trying not to alarm his patient.

"I think I'd better run some more tests on you. You have heart fluctuations like I've never seen before. What you need is an immediate vacation on some tropical island. You must be under some kind of stress at the workplace."

Jimmy Hart knows about stress at the workplace; the world of

wrestling is a pressure cooker, and Hart's lived with the intensity of that pressure for years.

"You have to find a way to relax," the doctor continued. "I understand how your blood pressure might've increased when The Honky Tonk Man lost the Intercontinental belt at SummerSlam, but

# The Beat Goes On:



switching loyalties from The Hart Foundation to the Rougeaus didn't help out the old ticker, either."

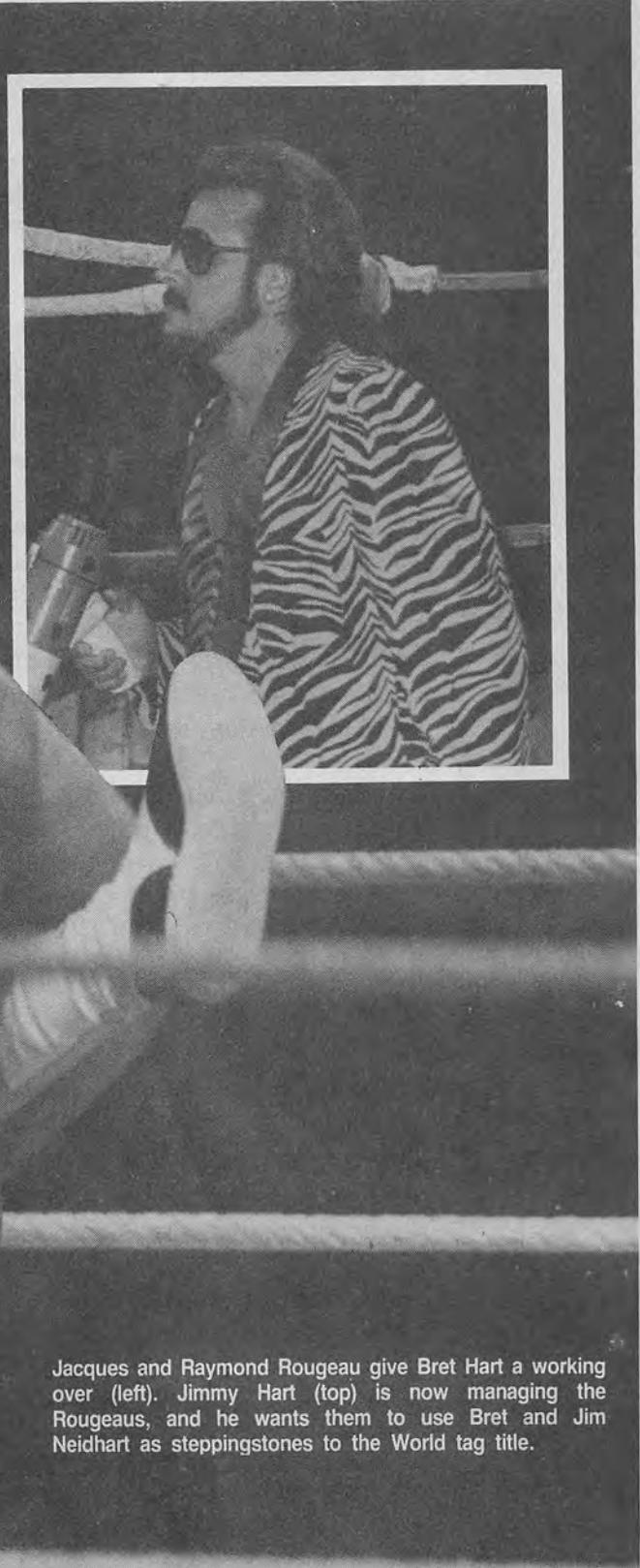
The doctor knew his patient—and his wrestling. Although Jacques and Raymond Rougeau have tremendous potential, they're still largely untested as rulebreakers. Hart is in the difficult position of

having to teach his new charges that phase of the game from the inside out. Can it be done? Maybe, maybe not. But he certainly doesn't need any added incentive to try. The shock of Honky Tonk's loss was a major blow to Hart's reputation. Greater than that, however, was The Hart Foundation's

snubbing—and unceremonious dumping—of Hart as their manager.

Hart is not a man who forgets such a snubbing so quickly. Upon seeing that the Harts could keep pumping without him, Jimmy quickly allied himself with oppo-

(Continued on page 54)



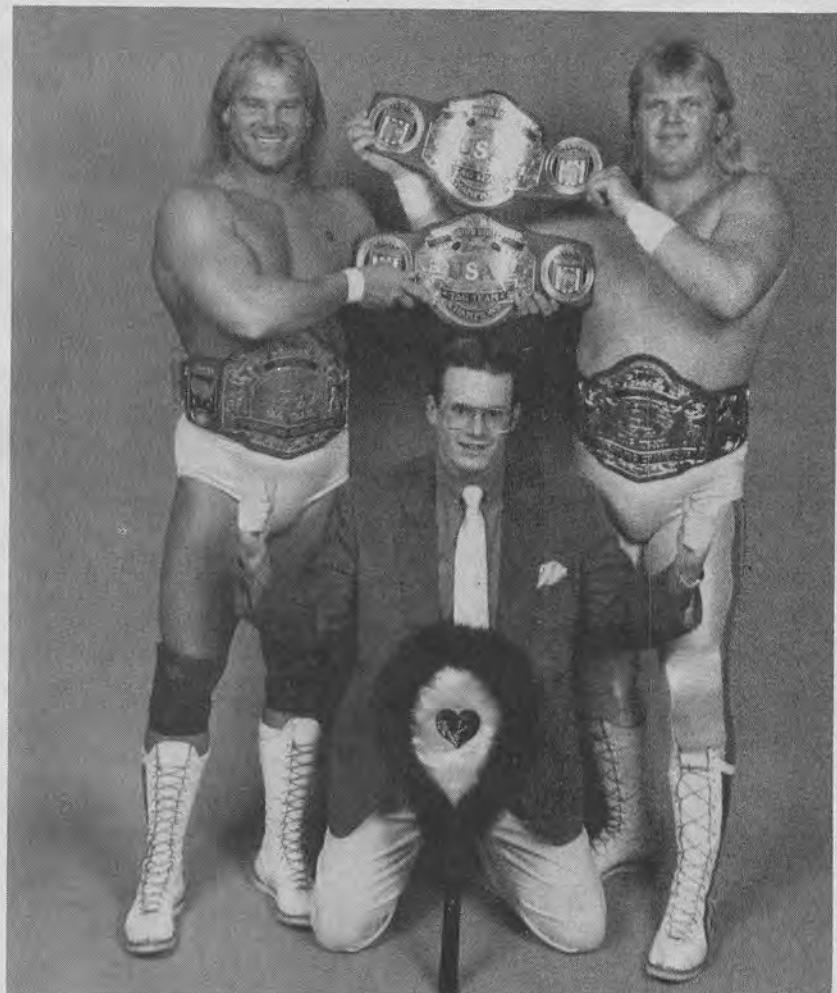
Jacques and Raymond Rougeau give Bret Hart a working over (left). Jimmy Hart (top) is now managing the Rougeaus, and he wants them to use Bret and Jim Neidhart as steppingstones to the World tag title.

# CAN JIMMY HART MAKE THE ROUGEWAUS WORLD CHAMPIONS?

Jimmy Hart has found another team to lead. The new manager of Jacques and Raymond Rougeau is out to destroy ex-champions Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart by using his new clients—and all his former clients' secrets—as weapons! In the process, he also wants to make his new men World champions!

# The Horsemen Destroyed!

## The World Title Gained!



"What now, Batman?"

—Robin

**W**HAT NOW, BOY Wonder? Well, The Midnight Express can start by proving that their victory over Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World tag team title was no fluke. Of course, that will be difficult—Tully and Arn departed the NWA for the WWF following that September 10 title change in Philadelphia.

Next, the Midnights can prove that the team of Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane really *is* better than the former Midnight Express duo of Eaton and Dennis Condrey. Lane and manager Jim Cornette have claimed this ever since Lane joined the Midnights in March 1987. Well, if Eaton and Lane can hold the belts for more than six months and 14 days—the length of Eaton and Condrey's NWA World tag title reign—they'll have proven it.

And if that's not enough, the Midnights can prove that they practice what they preach. The NWA broke their own unwritten

**BUT THE  
MIDNIGHT EXPRESS  
STILL  
MUST PROVE  
THEMSELVES!**

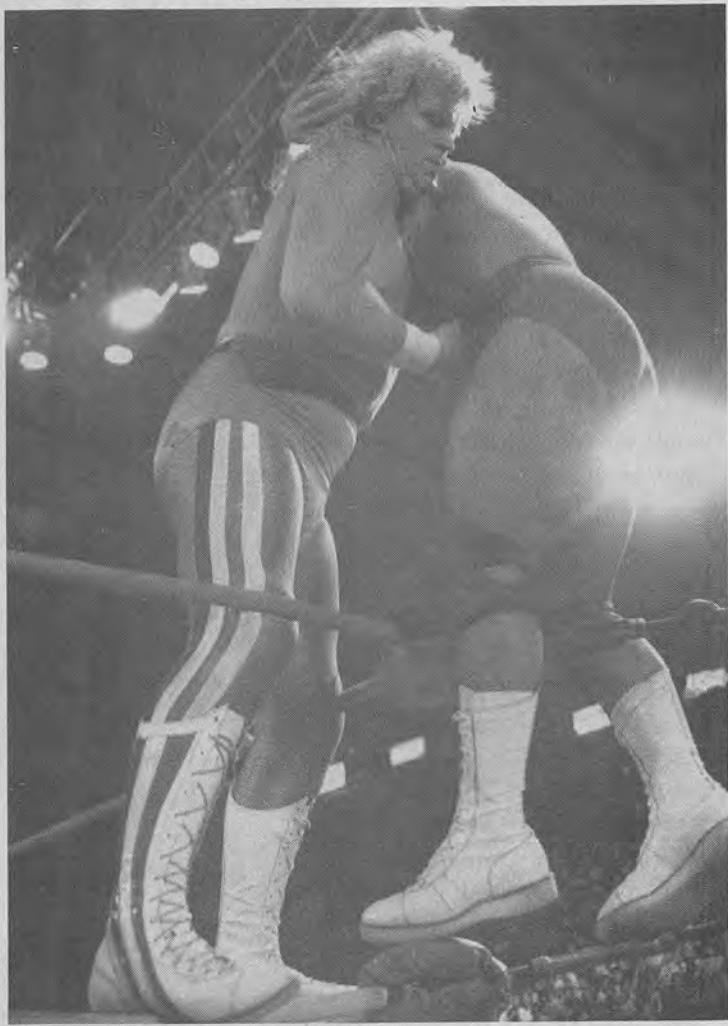
rule forbidding rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker bouts when the Midnights got their match against Tully and Arn. Now, having set this dangerous precedent, the Midnights will have no choice but to take on every team in the NWA, not just the fan favorites.

Will they?

"You'd better believe we will," said Cornette. "Any team that wants a piece of The Midnight Express, all they've gotta do is raise



Bobby Eaton leaps down on Arn Anderson (left), and sets up Bobby Fulton for a superplex (below). Eaton holds half of the NWA tag title.



---

## They were the U.S. tag team champions; now they're the NWA World tag team champions. But The Midnight Express still has a long way to go before they're granted the respect manager Jim Cornette thinks they deserve

---

their hands and get in line. I'm talking about The Road Warriors, The Fantastics, Sting and Steve Williams, and The Sheepherders. Anybody that wants us, we're here. And if Anderson and Blanchard had any guts in the first place, they'd get their butts back here and wrestle us like the men they aren't!"

The departure of Tully and Arn could be the biggest problem of all for Eaton and Lane, though it's a source of pride to Cornette, who believes his team ran the Horsemen out of town. On review of the

title match, it becomes clear that Eaton and Blanchard were the legal men in the ring when Blanchard pinned Lane just as Eaton pinned Anderson. Referee Tommy Young, understandably confused, counted *both* pins and awarded the match to the Midnights; he *should* have called for a double-disqualification.

"You're damn *right* he should have," said Blanchard. "When we saw that decision, we hightailed it right out of town. We were getting screwed, and it couldn't have been more obvious. If you ask me,

the NWA was sick of The Four Horsemen holding all three major titles, so they did something about it. Well, now they won't have to worry about The Four Horsemen, because the Horsemen no longer exist. And you're a *fool* if you don't think they're gonna miss us."

They already do. The Midnights now own tainted belts; with Tully and Arn gone, the only way to prove they deserve the title is with a series of decisive pinfall victories over *all* the top competitors—and without Cornette's outside interfer-

(Continued on page 56)

**R**ECIPE FOR SUCCESS: Team a federation's two winningest and most popular wrestlers, and have a smart and beautiful woman manage them. On paper, the Megapowers is the type of alliance promoters and fans dream about. One would be hard-pressed to match two wrestlers able to generate more enthusiasm than Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. Elizabeth, of course, attracts devotion of a different—though no less faithful—sort. "They are, potentially, a team for the history books," remarked Senior Editor Bill Apter. "If they remain healthy, they'll rewrite all the records."

To appreciate the magnitude of the Savage-Hogan friendship, one must return to their violent series of battles when Hogan held the WWF crown. A sampling of fan opinion at a recent WWF card made for unanimous agreement: Savage was Hogan's toughest opponent.

"He gave Hogan the hardest run of all for the belt," said one ringsider. "That's why they're so close today. Each one appreciates and respects the other's skills. Neither man would let the other down."

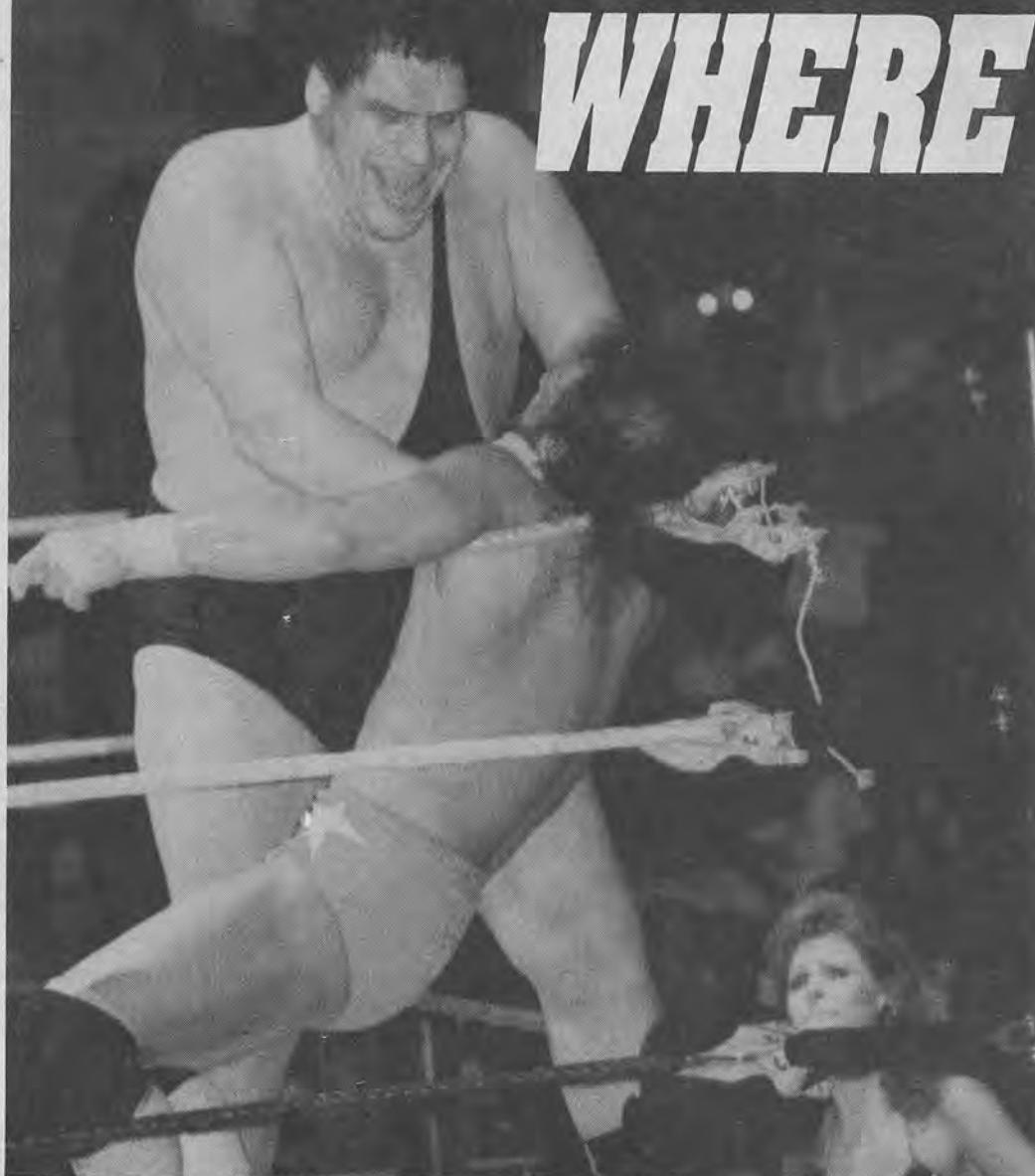
This was never more apparent than during Savage's drive for the WWF championship in the weeks leading up to the WrestleMania IV title tournament, and at the tournament itself. When Savage found himself the victim of double- and triple-teams, Hogan immediately responded and came to his aid. The birth of the Megapowers, created to combat the rulebreaking axis of Ted DiBiase, Virgil, and Andre the Giant, certified their allegiance.

Or did it?

Recently, Savage was suffering a brutal beating at the hands of Andre during a title match. Though

# When Andre Savaged "The Macho Man"

# WHERE



Elizabeth watches helplessly as Andre the Giant chokes WWF World champion Randy Savage. On this occasion, Hulk Hogan was not around when Savage needed him the most, fueling speculation that he just doesn't care anymore.

Hogan was in the arena, he didn't come to his partner's rescue—even when Andre lifted Elizabeth off her feet and threatened her with violence. Dressing room sources claim Hogan was in the whirlpool and didn't see the match. Others claim Hogan viewed the beating impas-sively and decided to let his partner "tough it out."

One must immediately question whether Hogan would in fact take a whirlpool during his partner's title match—especially a battle against Andre, Hogan's chief nemesis. It

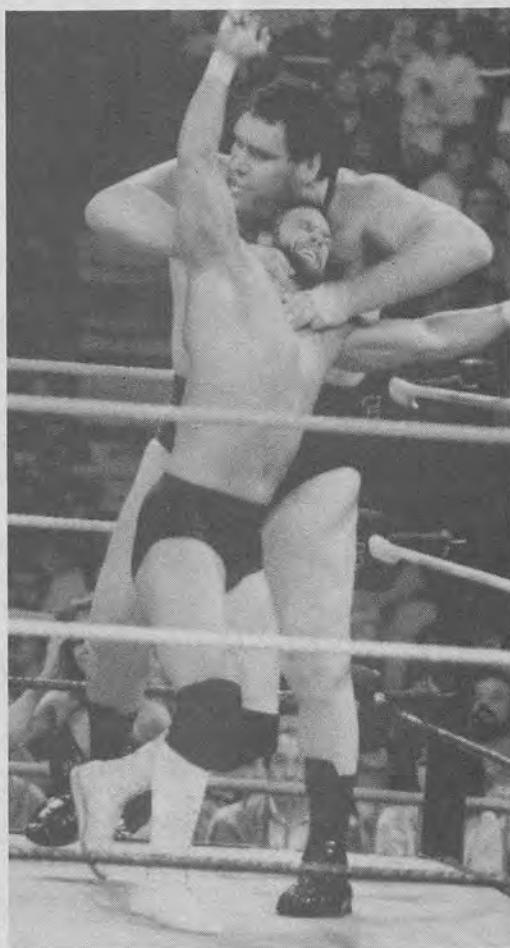
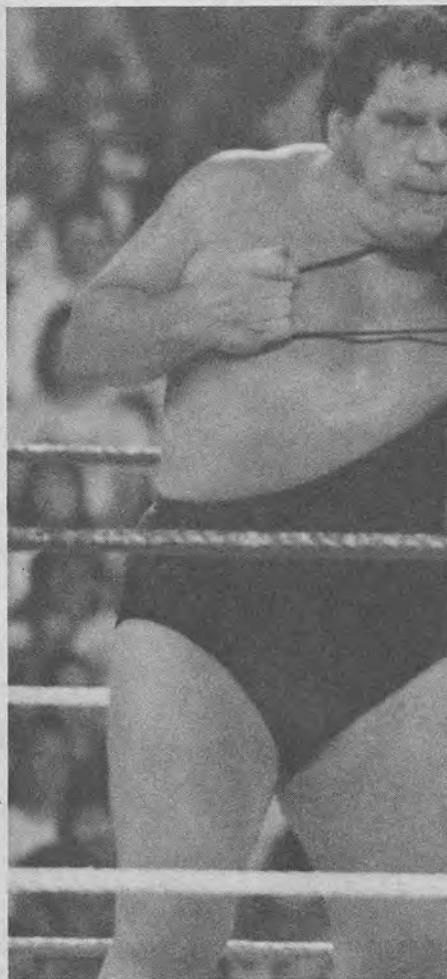
also makes little sense, given their perceived camaraderie and the fact that Hogan was viewing the match, that he would allow Savage to take a beating.

"It makes perfect sense," declares Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner. "I've been saying all along that when you lay down with swine, you wind up with mud on your face. The day Savage accepted Hogan's friendship is the day he sealed his eventual doom."

"I have no doubt that Hogan watched Andre's beating with a big,

Is Hulk Hogan Randy Savage's friend, bodyguard, keeper . . . or enemy? It's a fair question now, because when Savage was in trouble recently against Andre the Giant, Hogan was nowhere to be found. What's the story?

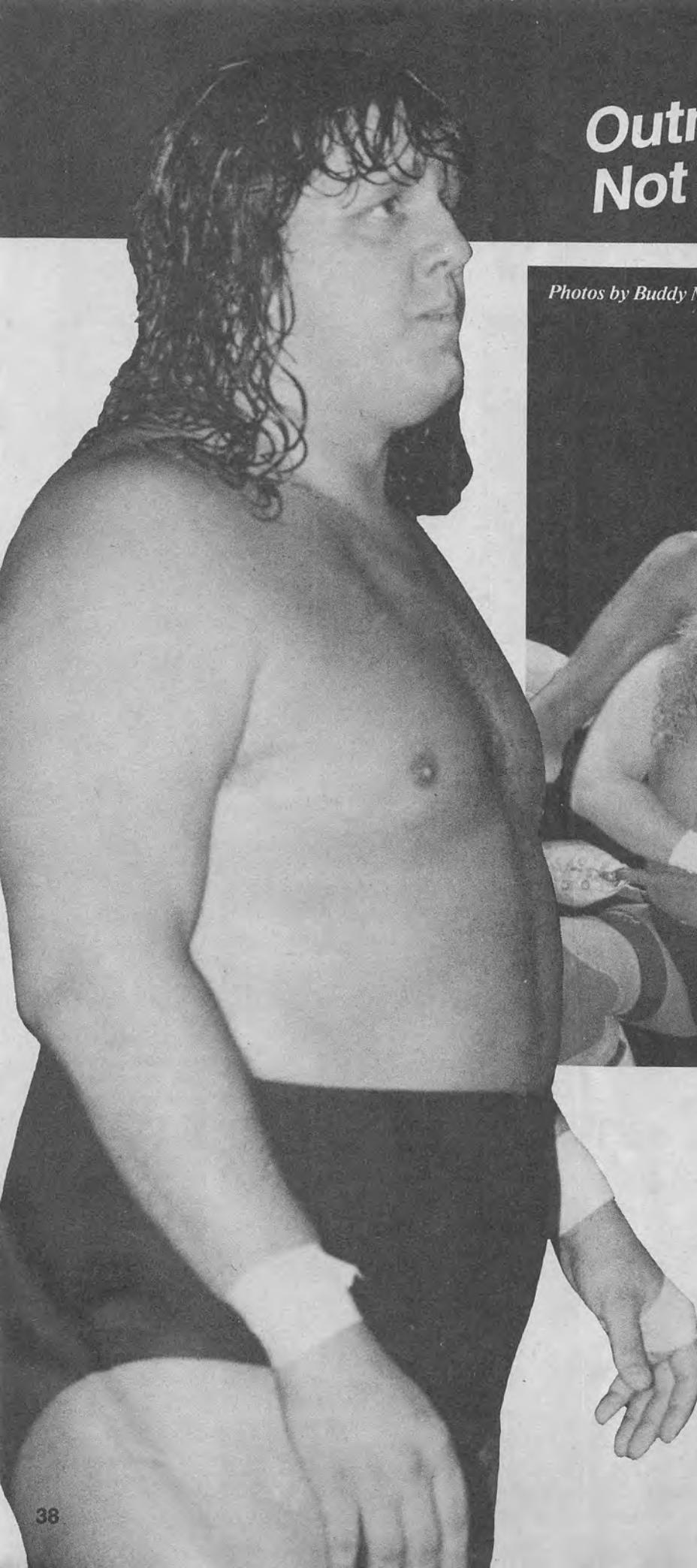
# WAS HULK?



self-serving grin on his face," Ellner continued. "Nothing would give him greater satisfaction than to see his 'partner' stumble. Hogan's no fool. He's using Savage to regain the top spot in the WWF pecking order. The only thing better would have been if Andre had punched Elizabeth. That would have made it perfect. Hogan would spread the word that Savage was incapable of protecting Elizabeth, driving *another* wedge between those two. He'd let the media orchestrate the break between Savage and Elizabeth, then step in like a pig strolling into a mud pit."

(Continued on page 60)

Andre loves to choke his opponents, especially Savage, who gets it with Andre's tightstrap (far left) and with his bare hands (above and left). After gargantuan battles with Hogan, Andre has redirected his fury at Savage.



# Outmanned, But Not Outwrestled:

Photos by Buddy Myers



HIGH UP ON the Colorado plateau known as Mesa Verde, a three-man army is in training. Through the crisp early morning mountain air, a shouting drill sergeant can be heard barking his military commands.

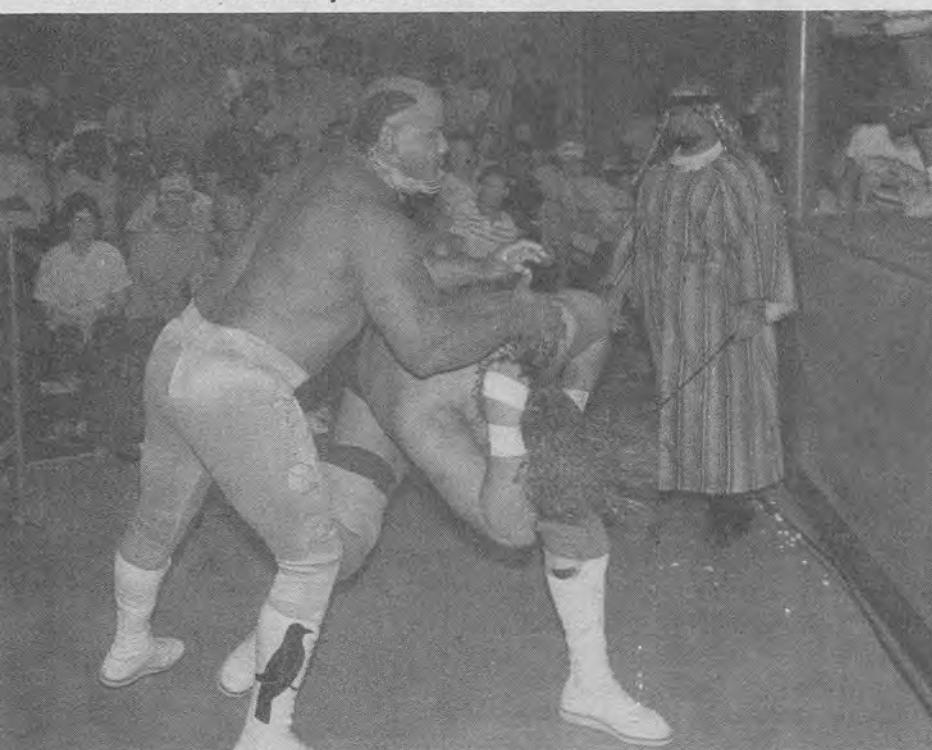
"Atten-shun! Forward, march!"

The team of three soldiers lurches forward in unison. New orders are issued and the group drops to begin a set of one-armed military pushups. They continue uninterrupted for 20 minutes and,

# TERRY GORDY TAKES ON AKBAR'S ARMY!



Kamala gets a leg up on Terry Gordy (left), who retaliates with a powerful kick (above). Iceman Parsons jumps Gordy as Gen. Skandor Akbar nods his approval (below). Akbar wants his men to drive Gordy out of World Class.



**Terry Gordy went to Japan because he needed a break from the Freebird feud. But when he returned, he found an army of men sworn to destroy him. Now the man they call "Bamm Bamm" is in the fight of his career!**

like clockwork, return to their feet and again begin running. After a five-mile jaunt in the thin mountain air, the group returns to their starting point for more orders. The training is more severe and testing than any set of military maneuvers. This is serious work.

A closer look reveals that the group leader is not dressed in battle fatigues or camouflage pants. This drill master is wearing a robe and an Arabic headdress. Even closer scrutiny reveals the startling truth: That's no sergeant at all! It's a general, and his name is Akbar.

Gen. Skandor Akbar has taken his stable of wrestlers to the highlands of Colorado, to a place where their notoriety would go unnoticed. Akbar has spent many months and thousands of dollars to work these men into peak physical condition for their approaching campaign. And it is here, at Akbar's special training compound, that the hated World Class manager unveils his sinister plot to the three members of his sadistic corps.

First, Akbar approaches Iceman Parsons and issues his evil order:

"Destroy Terry Gordy! Understood?"

"That raggedy rooty-poot?" the powerful World Class Texas champion says whimsically, "I'll destroy him with my own two . . . "

"Understood?" Akbar interrupts with military efficiency.

"Uh, understood, sir," Parsons says humbly.



Gordy blasts Parsons with a kick (above), but Akbar extracts revenge with a choke (right). In this war, Gordy is getting no help from his former Freebird comrades. But he hardly expected any.



The next man Akbar approaches is The Beast.

"Destroy Terry Gordy!" the General barks.

The Beast nods his silent approval.

Finally, Akbar approaches his meanest recruit, Kamala. At this point, Akbar—knowing Kamala's difficulty with spoken language—only shows the Ugandan giant a picture of Gordy. He then hands the picture to Kamala, who glances at it for a second and devours it in one gulp. The evil smile that crosses the Ugandan's painted face tells

all.

Meanwhile, Terry Gordy is getting off an airplane at the airport in Dallas. Gordy has returned from a brief stint in Japan, a trip that lent much-needed perspective on his involvement in the Freebird feud.

"Boy, that tour was just what the doctor ordered," Gordy says to his traveling companion. "Maybe by now Michael [Hayes] and Buddy Jack [Roberts] have let bygones be bygones. I had a dream last night that I came back and this whole thing was over. Let's hope it comes true."

What Gordy doesn't know, however, is that high up in the mountains of Colorado, three men are planning his destruction. The peace that Gordy envisions really is just a dream.

\*\*\*

In recent weeks, Terry Gordy has had little time to worry about his ex-Freebird comrades. He can't worry about helping Michael Hayes; he has to think about himself. Akbar's men have begun their mission.

Since returning from Japan, Gordy has wrestled all three madmen. Despite constantly being double-teamed and having to fight off Akbar's interference, he is hanging on—almost miraculously.

After a recent match against Kamala, for example, Gordy could only say, "That savage! He and his slimy manager spent the whole match double-teaming me. And if it's not Akbar, it's Parsons. And if it's not Parsons, it's that Beast character. A win by disqualification? Big deal! I wanna *crush* those guys!"

"Yes," Gen. Akbar says, "we've launched a very successful campaign thus far. I think that we will be able to conquer and occupy Texas in a very short time. In addition, our injury rate has been extremely low. It looks like our entire mission will be highly successful here."

Akbar cracked an evil smile. Riding crop in hand, he gestured toward his three-man army and the smile gave way to a sinister laugh better suited to a mad scientist than a wrestling manager.

And like most mad scientists, Akbar is concocting a formula. His recipe? One part uncontrollable savagery, one part unknown animal, and one part devious rulebreaker. Akbar plans to sprinkle this formula all over Texas—and hope Gordy gets drenched!

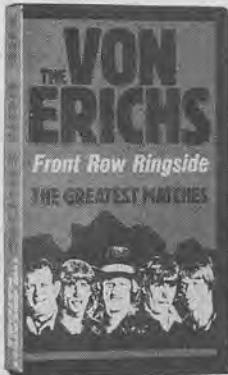
But as this issue went to press, Gordy was still holding on, still fighting for what is right.

When an evil army invades, there is no other choice. □



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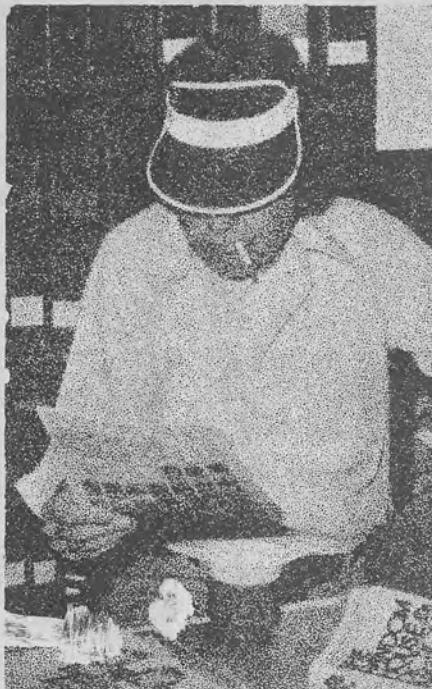
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# MATT BROCK'S



# LOOKING BACK

JUNE 22, 1962  
**BOBO BRAZIL vs. SKULL MURPHY**

I KNOW THAT there are a lot of youngsters out there reading this, and I know that in the next few years, most will be taking a standardized exam known as the SAT. Part of this exam, I'm told, requires students to pick apart analogies such as, "driver is to car as captain is to ship."

Well, I never put much stock in this kind of testing—or in a college education, for that matter. But in keeping with the spirit of the SAT, I'd like to point out one important analogy for wrestling:

Bobo Brazil is to wrestling what Jackie Robinson is to baseball.

It's that simple.

You youngsters might not remember the days when wrestling was the exclusive playground of the white man. Well, it was basically the same as baseball. Black ballplayers, although remarkably talented, were forced to languish in the "Negro leagues." One such man was Satchel Paige, a pitcher so talented that he could reportedly throw 100-mile-per-hour fastballs through both ends of a double header. Paige finally made it to the big



Bobo Brazil gives Skull Murphy an armtwist. Matt Brock recalls Brazil as a true pioneer, the first black man to achieve superstar status in wrestling.

leagues thanks to Jackie Robinson's success in breaking baseball's color barrier, but the 42-year-old pitcher was well beyond his legendary prime.

Wrestling was in a similar predicament during the 1940s and '50s. There

were a few blacks in the game, but certainly no main eventers. The game needed a Jackie Robinson to break down the walls of segregation and allow a new flood of talent to enter the ranks. Bobo Brazil was that man.



During this 1962 match at Madison Square Garden, Brazil catches Murphy in a modified sleeper (left) and works on his left arm (above). The remarkable Brazil is still wrestling, and recently competed in a tag team bout with Denny Kass (below).

The man I saw one June night in 1962 in New York's Madison Square Garden was already a legend. Looking back at Bobo's career, I remember that it was one of the greatest in the history of the sport. That night, however, Bobo was just beginning a tenure in the promotion that would later become the WWF. Sure, he was a veteran, but nobody knew what kind of fan reaction he'd receive in The Big Apple.

In his first Garden appearance, Bobo proved he was a star to stay.

Of course, it didn't hurt any that Bobo's opponent, Skull Murphy, was one of the most hated wrestlers of the day. But even without the bald-headed barbarian, Bobo's magnetic personality would surely have charmed the New York fans. In fact, he didn't *really* have to spit on his fallen opponent; it was just a nice touch.

That was all 26 years ago. Now, Bobo is around the age when you stop counting. Last time I asked him, he just said, "sixtysomething," and quickly changed the subject. But Bobo wasn't hiding his age out of insecurity or the fear that old age would block

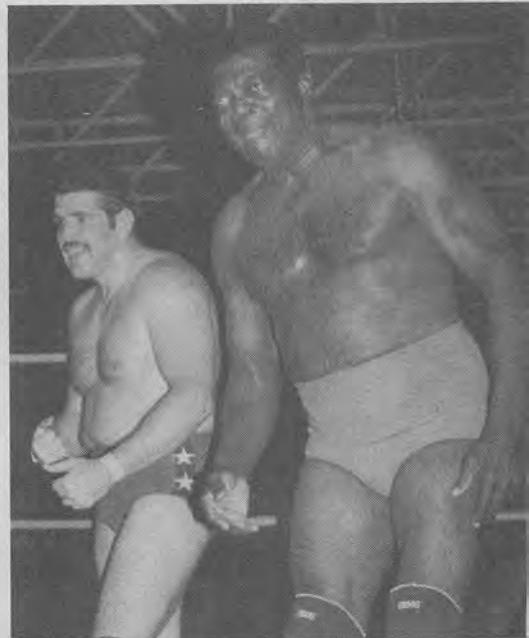
the path to ring achievements. And he's certainly not letting age get in the way of greater accomplishments.

I ran into Bobo recently after a Midwest Wrestling Federation card. Even at "sixtysomething," Bobo is unbeatable. He's still a warehouse of scientific moves. And he still has that magnetic charm.

I took the opportunity to chat with Bobo about those pioneering days of the past when he broke wrestling's color barrier almost singlehandedly.

"You know, Matt," the veteran grappler said, "you always did distort history a little. To liken me to Jackie Robinson, well, let's just say that you're an old wrestling writer seeing our sport through rose-colored glasses. I'm no pioneer. I'm just a wrestler."

Bobo's class didn't surprise me, but his modesty did. The last man who should be self-deprecating is Bobo Brazil. He's still a titleholder—the Michigan Wrestling Federation North American champ—and he recently won an 18-man battle royal. Amazingly, Bobo continues to battle effectively as he enters his fifth decade of wrestling.



Most of his peers from the early '50s are gone, but I guess that's fitting in a way. Bobo never really had a genuine peer. And in true pioneer spirit, he's *still* breaking down wrestling's barriers and instilling new fear into the hearts of younger men who take him lightly.

Skull Murphy made that mistake, and Bobo spat all over him. □

## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

As a big fan of Dusty Rhodes, it warmed my heart to once again see this mighty man reuniting with Dick Murdoch after a sudden falling out that took place nearly two years ago. During that period, with the hatred that was shown between the two men, the last thing in the world that could be expected would be for the two powerful beasts to resolve their differences and join forces once again. But surprisingly they did—against the likes of the now-defunct Four Horsemen and the backstabbing Ronnie Garvin.

During the early 1970s, The Outlaws terrorized teams nationwide as they went on to earn their reputation as the roughest competitors in pro wrestling. Today, they still hold the ultimate power that will soon bring the NWA World tag team championship into their grasp.

I have never been a great believer in the style of wrestling that Murdoch has chosen for himself, but Rhodes believes in his abilities—and that should be good enough for any fan.

STEVEN KERSEY  
Florissant, MO

### ROBERTS IS RIGHT!

I really enjoyed the "Q & A" interview in your November 1988 issue with the most loyal Freebird, Buddy Roberts.

It's pretty obvious that you journalists played Roberts for a joker, but he's really a full-fledged Freebird. When Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts betrayed him and sided with the Von Erichs, Buddy rebounded by making the official Freebirds, comprised of former World Class heavyweight champion Iceman Parsons, Samoan Samu, and his brother

Fatu—a stroke of genius on the part of Roberts!

Buddy's 110 percent right when he proclaims that he's the original Freebird and has the right to hire or fire anybody who belongs to the group. I'm a man who steadfastly believes in originals, and Buddy Roberts is the original Freebird.

So, Von Erichs—beware! You two renegades, Terry Gordy and Michael Hayes—beware, too! Prepare to feel the burning rage of the real Freebirds!

ARTHUR RISK JR.  
Mt. Clemens, MI

### RACE: THE GREATEST

I fully agree with Bob Smith's column in the November 1988 issue of *The Wrestler* ("Blindsided"). When Harley Race left the great sport of

(Continued on page 46)



Buddy Roberts throws Michael Hayes into the announcer's table. In this feud between The Freebirds, Arthur Risk sides with Roberts, whom he calls the only true Freebird.

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## YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 44)



Harley Race hiptosses Bob Backlund. In Darrell Stewart's opinion, Race is the greatest wrestler of all time because he has won more NWA World heavyweight titles—seven—than anyone else in history.

wrestling, there was hardly any mention of it. Harley Race was a true legend. I would not be wrong, I don't think, to say that he was the greatest wrestler there ever was. I don't think too many people would disagree with that. Harley is the man who holds the record for the most NWA World titles, so that backs up my statement of him being the greatest wrestler to ever lace up a pair of boots.

DARRELL STEWART  
Telford, Nova Scotia

### NO MORE WEAPONS!

I have a message for WWF President Jack Tunney:

Ban managers from bringing weapons to the ring! Titles have changed hands because of those weapons. When The British Bulldogs lost the WWF World tag team belts, it was the fault of Jimmy Hart and his megaphone. It's the same with Mr. Fuji—he brings a cane to the ring. At WrestleMania IV, that cane made Demolition the WWF tag team champions.

Ban *all* weapons from the ring!

JESSE BOWLAND  
Minneapolis

### AWESOME AERIALISTS

I have been an avid wrestling fan for 10 years. Since I first took interest in this great sport, I've become partial to the high-flying grapplers. Since I live in the Pacific Northwest, I've seen my share of the best aerial talent come and go. By "best," I mean guys like Jimmy Snuka, Rocky Johnson, Curt Hennig, Jay Youngblood, Nick Kiniski, and Billy Jack Haynes.

The Pacific Northwest has always been a hot spot for aerial talent, and the present time is no exception. The list currently includes Steve Doll and Scott Peterson (The Southern Rockers), Billy Two Eagles, Mike Golden, and Art Barr. Just for the record, Art Barr is the son of NWA official Sandy Barr, and the younger brother of wrestler Jesse Barr.

I had to write this, because high-flyers are often looked down upon because of their general lack of size. So the next time you're skeptical of the acrobatic grapplers, think about guys like Steve Regal, Curt Hennig, Randy Savage, and Jeff Jarrett.

Let's start giving credit to the "movers" as well as the "shakers."

TODD HILL  
Hillsboro, OR □

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)



Jules Strongbow (left) and D.C. Drake are involved in a National Wrestling Federation title controversy. Ronnie Garvin chinlocks Greg Gagne (above). Garvin recently defeated Gagne for the AWA TV belt. Rick Steamboat (below) may return to the NWA, the site of many of his early triumphs.

cide whether they should return the belt to Drake or give it to **Jules Strongbow**. Drake recently used a weapon to pin Strongbow . . . New teammates **Chris Benoit** and **Lance Idol** are after the Stampede International tag belts held by **Jerry Morrow** and **The Cuban Assassin**, a.k.a. **The Cuban Commandos**.

AWA World champion **Jerry Lawler** and World Class champ **Kerry Von Erich** are scheduled to battle in a title-unification match on the big AWA/World Class/CWA pay-per-view TV card December 13 in Chicago. But here's the big question:

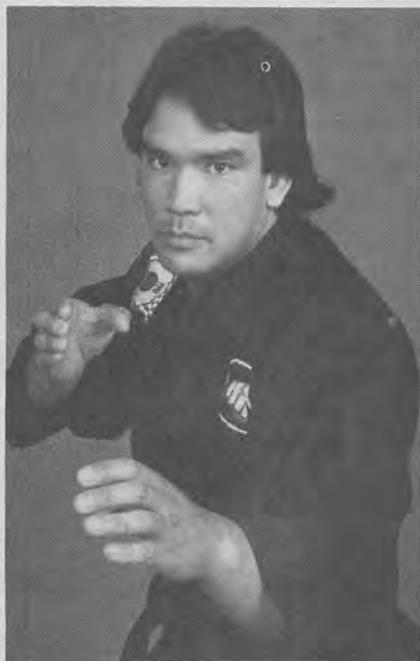
Will Lawler and Kerry survive until December 13?

On September 23 in Dallas, both belts were held up in the World Class area after Lawler and Von Erich both slugged referee **John Keaton**. Lawler and Von Erich were scheduled to battle in a combination Texas death

match/Tennessee street fight on October 15 at The Cotton Bowl, and are expected to continue their title vs. title matches up until the December 13 card.

"It's been brutal, but this is what wrestling's all about," said Kerry. But is this what wrestling's all about? What started as a friendly series of title vs. title matches between Lawler and Von Erich is slowly developing into the feud of the year. And neither man, it seems, cares about what he has to do to win.

Also on that December 13 card: **Sgt. Slaughter** vs. **Col. DeBeers**; **Greg Gagne** vs. **Ronnie Garvin** for the AWA TV title recently won by Garvin; and **Manny Fernandez** vs. **Wahoo McDaniel** in an Indian strap match. **Rick Morton** and **Robert Gibson—The Rock 'n' Roll Express**—are back together again and will also appear. Morton, by the way, claims that he and Gibson never



broke up. "Robert just needed a vacation," Morton told *The Wrestler*.

**Chavo Guerrero** won the All-California Championship Wrestling title from **Jack Armstrong** on Sep-

tember 27; Peter Maivia Jr. and Mando Guerrero recently defeated The Lords of Discipline for the ACCW tag belts ... Johnny Ace and The Terminator won the Florida Championship Wrestling tag belts from Mike Graham and Steve Keirn ... Eddie Gilbert, Paul E. Dangerously, and Missy Hyatt have left the CWF following contractual problems ... Jim Cornette has a new segment on NWA Power Pro Wrestling called "Louisville Slugger." Cornette's first guest was Bam Bam Bigelow, who is being billed as "The Beast From The East." Bigelow, still managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink, revealed that he is looking for a steady tag team partner.

The list of challengers to Randy Savage's WWF World title continues to grow. Savage has already held off Andre the Giant, Ted DiBiase, and Bad News Brown. Now he'll have to deal with King Haku. Big Bossman might also get a shot at Savage if he does well in his matches against Hulk Hogan. By the way, the WWF's second Survivor Series will be held on Thanksgiving night at the Richfield (Ohio) Coliseum, sight of last year's inaugural event.

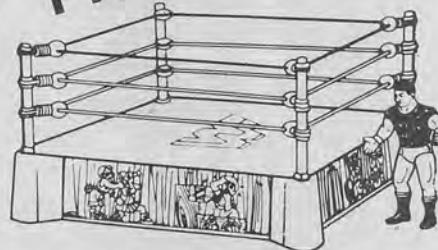
"Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase was featured on a recent edition of the TV show *Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous*. DiBiase was profiled by host Robin Leach and gave viewers a look at his huge estate ... Terry Taylor is being managed by Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, whose stable also includes WWF newcomers Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, now being billed as "The Brainbusters."

And this just in: Rick Steamboat might return to the NWA. At press time, Steamboat, a former NWA U.S. and WWF Intercontinental champ, was negotiating with NWA officials for a return to the federation.

That's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

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## BAD CO. VS. TOP GUNS

(Continued from page 31)

when young wrestlers take on a bit more than they are prepared for.

During the course of this violent battle, Rice tried to unleash one of his trademark dropkicks at Tanaka, but the wily Hawaiian champion dove out of the way, then applied his devastating version of the DDT to his young challenger. Paul was continuously frustrated by Diamond's vast array of suplexes and armdrags.

In the end, it was that frustration that led to a loss for Paul and Rice. As Tanaka and Paul were slugging it out, Rice and Diamond jumped into the ring. Rice hit Diamond squarely on the chin with a devastating dropkick, which sent the Canadian flying over the top rope. The referee immediately disqualified Rice. The loss was enough to reveal some sobering truths about both The Top Guns and the

champions.

"Page is a braggart, but he may have had a point," said Paul afterward, still somber following the loss. "I guess we really didn't expect them to come at us the way they did, but we probably *should* have. Man, they didn't even seem to care about defending their championship. They only wanted to *hurt* us. We'll know better next time."

A few days after this match, Page



Tanaka executes a swift and effective DDT on Rice (left). John Paul clamps a headlock on Diamond (right), who retaliates with an elbowsmash (bottom left). Rice unleashes a tremendous dropkick on Tanaka (below). "Diamond" Dallas Page, Bad Company's manager, says he won't grant the Top Guns any more title matches, but the AWA championship committee may have something to say about that.



came up with another way to discourage Rice and Paul. The calculating manager announced that he would not sign any contracts granting The Top Guns another title match against Diamond and Tanaka.

"They didn't beat us, so now they're through," boasted Page. "We gave them an opportunity to take these belts, and they fell flat on their faces. As manager of the champions, I can veto any match contracts I want to. And I'm sure as hell gonna keep an eye on any open contracts I put my signature to."



Tanaka chops Rice in the head. The Top Guns don't match up with Bad Company yet, but they have a promising future.

"I don't know how he can do this," Rice howled. "Page thinks he can call all the shots, but it's only because he's afraid of us. We're at least the equals of Diamond and Tanaka in every way. This ain't gonna last long, you can count on that!"

Page's roadblock is the first test of maturity for Rice and Paul. The Top Guns made an impressive debut on the AWA tag team scene, but it only took one match with Bad Company to shoot them down. Given more time, they could become champions, but Diamond and Tanaka—and Paul—are scheming to keep them mired in the low ranks of contenders.

Maybe because they know that The Top Guns have them squarely in their sights. □

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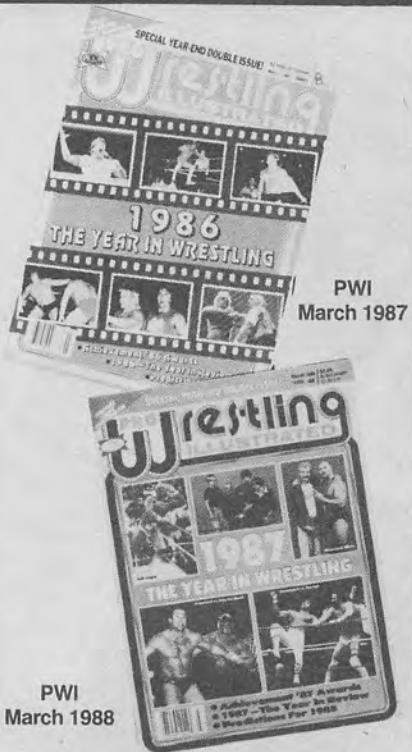
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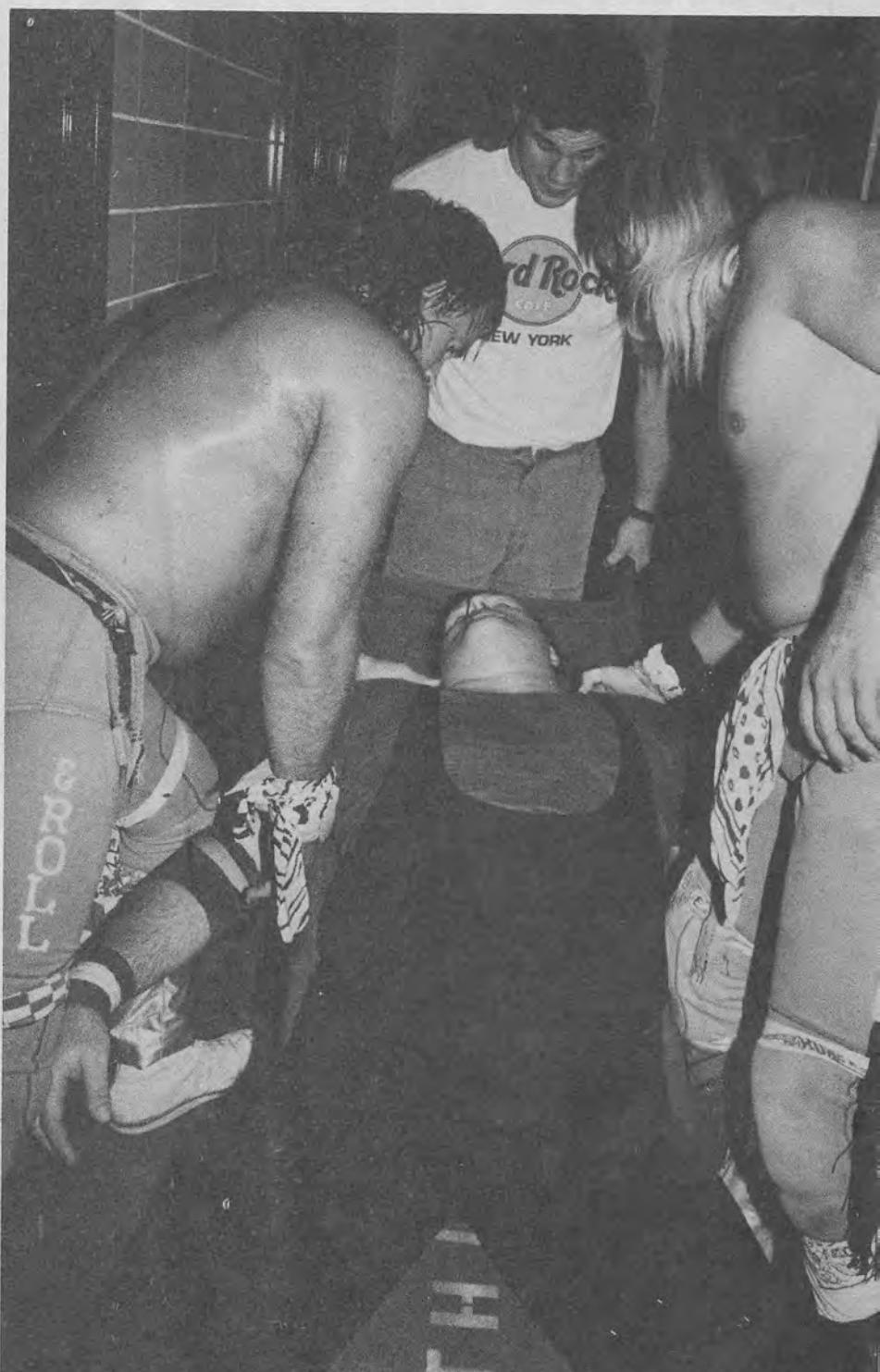
(Continued from page 10)

restore the pride of the white race.”

DeBeers's comments get worse, but my conscience won't allow me to print more of his drivel. Racism is a cancer on the body of humankind. DeBeers' body is wracked by that cancer.

He may be healthy physically, but spiritually he's a mess. Thumbs up to the AWA and ESPN for not allowing him to air his views on television.

“After a while, we began to realize how potentially damaging



The Rock 'n' Roll Express and Scott Steiner comfort Slaughter after the DeBeers ambush. Although he hungers for the AWA World title, Sarge's prime target is DeBeers.

DeBeers' comments could be," said AWA President Stanley Blackburn. "We were very concerned about his effect on young people, so we enacted the ban."

Although DeBeers' beliefs incense Slaughter, the Sarge does not want the South African silenced.

"Let the people hear what he has to say," Slaughter said. "Let them make up their own minds about him. They'll see what a lowlife he is. Then they'll be that much more eager for me to destroy him! I'll send him back to that sick country of his in a box!"

The obsession with DeBeers' destruction is not the only thing on Slaughter's mind. He is anxious to prove that he is still a top-flight wrestler, ready to contend for a world title at any moment.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm still the AWA Americas champion. I never lost that title in the ring. Since my last tour of the AWA, I've fought all over the U.S.A. and the world. My skills have not diminished one bit. Those fans who have seen me up close know this is the truth."

Sarge even wants a shot at his friend, AWA World champion Jerry Lawler.

"Everybody knows by now that Jerry is one of those champions who isn't afraid to give anybody a shot at his title," Slaughter observed, "and that includes me. Right now I'm just another challenger. But my time will come soon, and I expect Jerry to be there. He's a man of his word."

"Sgt. Slaughter is one of the finest competitors in our sport," Lawler agreed. "He's certainly deserving of a shot at my belt. But right now I have my hands full with Kerry Von Erich, and I can't afford a lapse of concentration. However, I won't forget about the Sarge, and I know for sure that he won't forget about me."

Welcome back, Sarge. You've been away too long. □

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## HART & ROUGEAUS

(Continued from page 33)

nents of the Foundation, whomever and wherever those opponents were. At SummerSlam 88, for example, Jimmy occupied an important space next to Mr. Fuji in Demolition's corner. With Jimmy's help, Demolition was able to successfully defend their WWF World tag team title against the Harts.

Having a mastermind in your corner can be quite an advantage, and that's exactly the advantage on which the Rougeaus seek to capitalize—all the way to the WWF World tag team title. After all, Jimmy Hart has of late been the most successful manager in the WWF. In the first half of 1987, Hart managed Honky Tonk to the Intercontinental title (it would come to be the longest I-C reign ever), and the Foundation to a nine-month WWF World tag team title stint. If it's true that you can't argue with success, don't bother picking a fight with Jimmy Hart.

But now the mastermind behind the Foundation's success is looking to mastermind their destruction. Jimmy wants the Rougeaus to do his dirty work, and the Rougeaus are willing to do the job (and would like to be rewarded by seeing Hart guide them to the World belts). Hart is ready—indeed, he's *anxious*—to give them the needed tools of success by telling them *all* The Hart Foundation's secrets.

Jimmy, having managed the Foundation for more than two years, knows their strengths and weaknesses intimately. As their manager, Hart's job was to capitalize on their strengths and guide them to victory; as their foe, he will be capitalizing on the Foundation's weaknesses in order to lead the Rougeaus to victory.

A swift and impressive victory over the Foundation would catapult the Rougeaus into title contention. With Hart's help, the

Rougeaus could ride the momentum of such a victory all the way to the World belts.

The Rougeaus are counting on it.

What weaknesses will Hart tell the Rougeaus to capitalize on? Certainly, he'll have Jacques and Raymond concentrate on re-injuring Neidhart's already-fragile back. The injury, sustained early in his career and aggravated by a Rick Martel Boston crab, still bothers "The Anvil."

*The Wrestler* has learned that Hart has already begun teaching his new team the precise moves that could aggravate Neidhart's injury and leave him crippled—perhaps permanently. One of those moves is the waistlock suplex. Painful even against a healthy man, the waistlock suplex puts pressure directly on the back's *spinalis dorsi* muscle, said to be the exact muscle that troubles Neidhart.

And what of Bret Hart? The



Jacques catches Bret in a camel clutch (above left) and Raymond elbows him in the back (above right). Jimmy Hart will be looking to capitalize on some of the Harts' weaknesses.

high-flying star's ego has won him no small measure of popularity, but there must be intellectual soft spots of which Jimmy Hart is keenly aware. Every man's ego has its weak points, and Hart undoubtedly knows them all of Bret's.

The prognosis for the Rougeaus—and for Jimmy Hart—is looking better all the time. It's a contest right now: Can the Foundation develop a new catalog of moves and maneuvers, strengthen their weak spots, and shore up their defenses before Hart has the chance to teach the Rougeaus how to capitalize on them all? If they can't, they'll be in trouble.



Raymond flips out of Neidhart's wristlock. Such moves help the Rougeaus greatly.

And the Rougeaus will begin a victory drive that could see Jimmy Hart managing the World champs once again.

And at his next physical exam, Hart might stun his doctor into believing that the patient actually took his advice and spent a month in the tropics.

"I've never seen such a turnaround," the doctor might say. "You must have found some way to eliminate your job-related stress. All my tests show that you're back to your old, healthy self. What's your secret?"

After thinking it over, the wily manager might reply, "Secret? That's funny, I don't keep any." □

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## MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(Continued from page 35)

ence, doubleteaming, or the use of foreign objects.

But that's simply not the way the Midnights do things.

"Remember how they robbed the U.S. belts from us at the [July 10 Great American] Bash?" Tommy Rogers of The Fantastics asked rhetorically. "Well, that's the way those guys *always* operate. We had Cornette locked up in a cage above the ring, and Eaton *still* found a way to use that chain on Bobby [Fulton]. I've seen no reason to believe that they're about to change. They won the U.S. belts by cheating, and they never *really* won the World title."

Rogers and Fulton, like most tag teams in the NWA, plan to give the Midnights plenty of opportunities to prove themselves. The Fantastics, The Sheepherders, The Road Warriors, and Sting and Steve Williams have all issued challenges to the Midnights. According to NWA President Jim

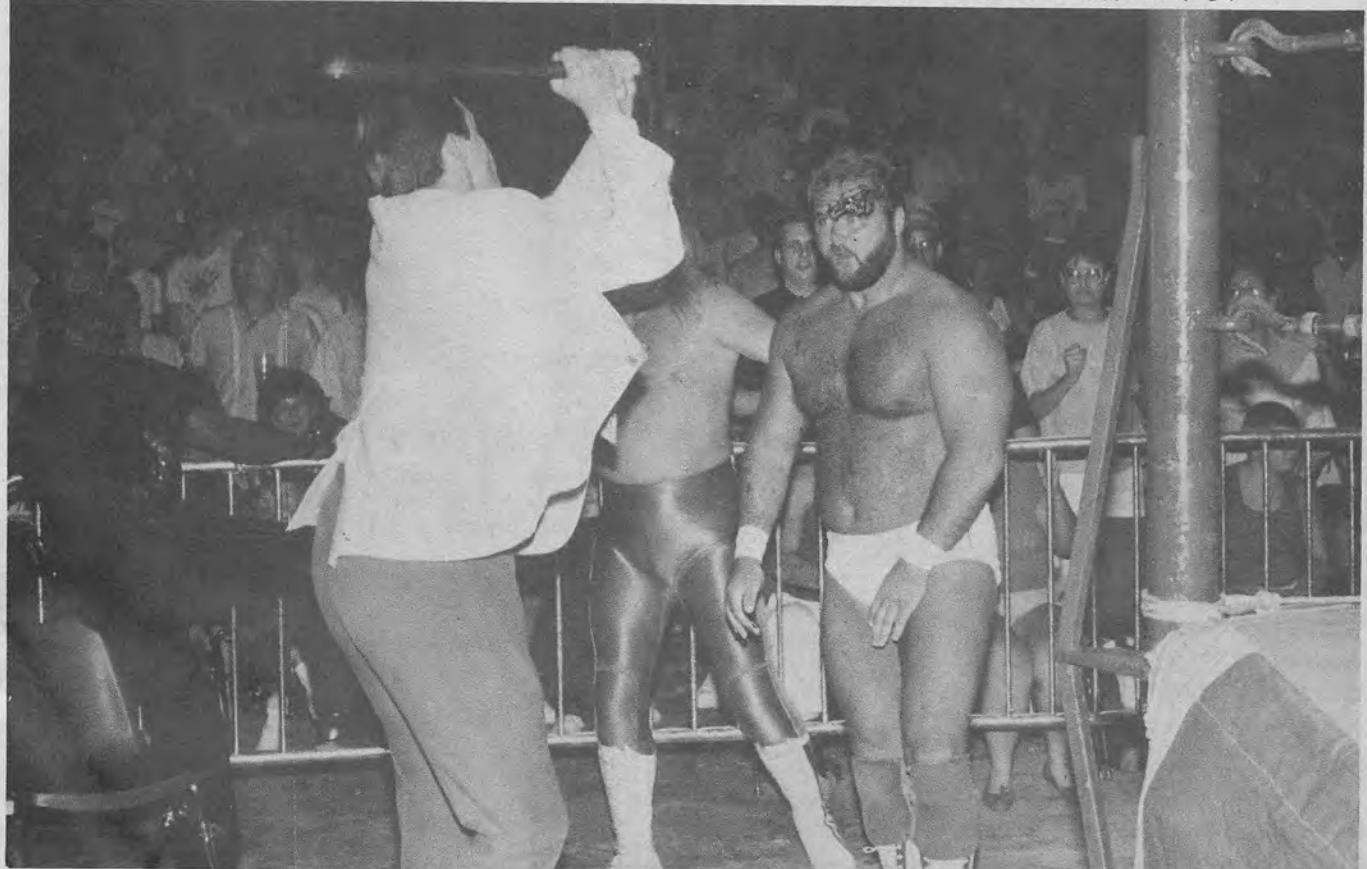
Crockett, there's no reason why they won't be granted title shots.

"The way we see it, The Midnight Express are fair game for any team in the NWA, not just fan favorites and not just rulebreak-

ers," Crockett said. "They broke tradition by demanding a match against the former champions, so now we have a new tradition. We invite any team to request a title shot against the new champions."



Stan Lane and Fulton engage in a test of strength (above). Jim Cornette smashes Anderson with his tennis racket (below). Tommy Rogers batters Lane (opposite page).





Can Eaton and Lane withstand an all-out brawl with sadistic Sheepherders one night, followed by a grueling battle against a high-flying, scientific duo such as The Fantastics the next?

"You'd better believe it," Lane brags. "There's no doubt about it," Eaton agreed. "I wish them luck," said Anderson, "they're gonna need it."

Lane, in particular, has the biggest stake in the Midnights' World title reign. When Condrey left the team in 1987, Lane bragged that he would make the Midnights a better team. One month later, Lane and Eaton won the U.S. tag belts by defeating Barry Windham and Ronnie Garvin in a tournament final. They held the belts for all but two months after that before being forced to give up the title as a result of the World title victory.

"To me, this is what it's all about," Lane said. "The World championship is the highest honor a tag team can attain, and now we've got it. If you think we've still got something to prove, so be it. I think I've already shown that I'm better than my replacement. If there are any doubts left, there won't be six months from now."

But it won't be easy. It's proving time for The Midnight Express. □

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SUMMER 1984/Color pinups: Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Ondorff.

FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. Stories include: Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Hayes-Funk. Stories include: Kenny Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. Stories include: Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

SUMMER 1985/Color pinups: Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. Stories include: Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. Stories include: Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. Stories include: Ondorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. Stories include: R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. Stories include: Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. Stories include: R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khrushchev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. Stories include: Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. Stories include: Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. Stories include: Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. Stories include: Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. Stories include: Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. Stories include: Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. Stories include: Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. Stories include: Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerr & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

WINTER 1988/Color pinups: Kerr, Hayes, OMG, Sting, Luger, Idol, Ultimate, Brody. Stories include: Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain.

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## INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 20)



Dustin slams Rex King. Before his professional debut, Dustin trained for months with Dusty. He calls the workouts the toughest experiences of his life.

daddy took his share of lumps comin' up don't mean Dustin's gotta suffer like I did. This time, we're doin' it smart."

In that light, Dusty has devoted most of his free time during the past two years to training Dustin near their home in Austin, Texas. Together, father and son engaged in strenuous daily workouts, with Dusty teaching his son the same maneuvers that have brought dozens of titles over the years.

"I've been all-state in football and competed in other sports, but I've never gone through anything so tough in my whole life," recalled Dustin. "My daddy really put me through my paces, but I'm a better wrestler because of it. He encouraged me not to take on more than I could handle right away."

As the son of one of the most popular wrestlers in history, Dustin could have rushed into the national spotlight. Rather than make that mistake, Dustin

has decided to begin his career in Florida.

"I could have gone straight into the NWA if I wanted to," said Dustin. "But I really wanted start out in Florida. My father had some of the best years of his career here, so I figured it might be a good luck charm."

So far, it has. Dustin's first match was on September 13 at the Florida State Fairground in Tampa against rugged veteran "Bad" Bob Cook. With the fans rallying in support, it took only 12 minutes for Rhodes to score his first professional win, rolling Cook into a small package to score the victory.

"It wasn't so much that he won, but it was *how* he won," marveled Brock, who made a special road trip to Florida to view Dustin's debut. "He's got the same quick hand speed as his father, and his version of the bionic elbow is every bit as effective as his dad's, too. Plus, he's quicker overall than his father ever was. It was a remarkable thing to watch."

Since that time, Dustin has been undefeated in singles competition. He also competed in a 15-man battle royal September 18 in Lakeland, but was the ninth man to be tossed over the top rope.

"In a way, I'm glad I didn't win," admitted Dustin. "If I'm going to be a success in wrestling, it's going to be on my own merit. Anything else would be cheating myself and the fans."

Dustin expressed a desire to continue wrestling in Florida, the same area where his father excelled for many years. When questioned about his goals for the future, Dustin broke into a huge grin.

"I'd like be in a tag team with my father," said Dustin. "I know a lot of guys want to win titles or make a lot of money, but my eventual goal is a little different. I just want to be able to stand with my hand raised in victory, with my favorite wrestler by my side. That would be my special way of thanking my dad for helping get me started." □

# Wrestling

September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk,

Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Villain-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

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SEPTEMBER 1987

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, MidNight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brady, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steambat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourny, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.

August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.

September 1988/Predictions Through 1988, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.

October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.

November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.

December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.

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## ANDRE VS. SAVAGE

(Continued from page 37)

Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks finds Ellner's comments ridiculous.

"It's not Hogan's job to be at ringside for every one of Savage's matches," Saks explains. "True, they *have* been together a lot, but Hogan isn't responsible for *everything* Savage does. Savage would be the last person to admit he's dependent on Hogan for protection.

"I find it doubtful, after all he's been through against Andre, that Hogan *wouldn't* jump at the opportunity to punish the Giant," Saks said. "I'm sure there's a reasonable explanation."

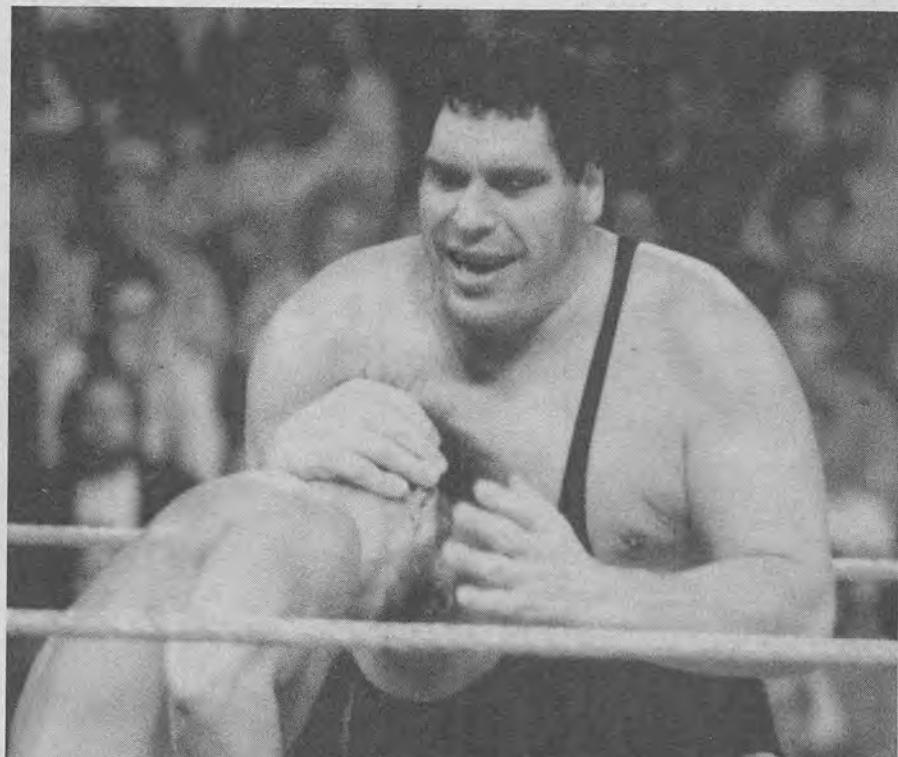
If there is, neither Hogan nor Savage is forthcoming with it. A spokesman for Hogan issued a terse "no comment." Savage would not return repeated phone calls from *Inside Wrestling*. The most interesting comment came from a most unlikely source.

"A tag team is like being married: the commitment is all-consuming," says Rick Morton, of the recently dissolved-then-reunited Rock 'n' Roll Express. "If my partner

bleeds, then I bleed. I attend almost every one of Bobby's [Robert Gibson's] singles matches. If there was ever a problem, I made sure I was

there to lend a hand—or whatever was needed."

Though the Megapowers aren't a tag team in the strictest sense, they



Andre's control over Savage (above) is not everlasting, as the "Macho Man" demonstrates by kneeing a tied-up Andre in the chest (below). The Giant falsely claims to be the new WWF World heavyweight champion (opposite page).





have spent considerable time together in the ring. Still, Savage and Hogan are individual superstars with egos that reflect their popularity.

"Hogan isn't used to *not* having top billing," Ellner says. "It freaks him out that the world can go on without him. He will do everything in his power—and let's face it, even without the title his power remains considerable—to bring Savage down. Before very long, those two will be engaged in a feud so violent it will make their battles of '86 seem like a sorority pillow fight!"

"I've seen lots of situations where men team for convenience or to accomplish short-term goals," Morton said. "These alliances never seem to work out. There's too much ego in this sport for men of incompatible temperaments to succeed."

Megapowers... or Megatrouble? □

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## CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 16)

to a draw . . . Dusty Rhodes, Lex Luger, Paul Ellering, & The Road Warriors defeated The Four Horsemen & J.J. Dillon.

**Guin, AL (Correspondent—Patsy Brown):** The main event at the Guin High School football field was a battle royal for \$25,000, with the money placed at the top of a steel pole. The participants were Rick Hazzard, Private Mark Pyle, D.I. Bob Carter, "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, Tom Prichard, Willie B. Hert, "Nightmare" Dan Davis, Alan Martin, and Lord Humongous.

Hazzard was the first man eliminated. Private Pyle almost had the money, but he was grabbed from behind and slammed to the canvas by Lord Humongous.

In the end, there was a two-on-one situation, with Martin and Pyle squaring off against Humongous. Undaunted, Humongous clotheslined Martin over the top rope, tossed Pyle out of the ring, and quickly climbed the pole to claim the \$25,000 prize.

In other bouts: Rick Hazzard defeated Alan Martin . . . The Dirty White Boy and Tom Prichard battled to a time-limit draw . . . Eddie Gilbert & "Nightmare" Freddy defeated Hazzard & Dan Davis . . . Willie B. Hert beat D.I. Bob Carter.

**Nashville, TN (Correspondent—Tracy Byers):** The main event pitting AWA World champion Jerry Lawler against World Class titlist Kerry Von Erich quickly degenerated into a brawl. After both men knocked referee Jerry Calhoun out of the ring, a second ref, Frank Morrell, ran in to officiate. Calhoun recovered and ruled the bout a double-DQ, but Lawler and Von Erich both wanted the



Kerry Von Erich makes a grab for the ropes in order to break Jerry Lawler's leglock. Their title vs. title matches have been hard-fought classics.



One look at his size and it's easy to see why Lord Humongous can easily win a battle royal. A victory in Alabama netted him \$25,000, which he climbed a pole to get.

match to continue; it was allowed to.

Soon, referee Morrell, who had taken charge of the bout again, was knocked out. When Von Erich piledriven Lawler, Morrell recovered and counted the pin on Lawler. Von Erich thought he had won both titles until a third referee came in and told Morrell about the piledriver. Morrell disqualified Von Erich.

Citing the World Class disqualification rule—which stipulates that a title *can* change hands on a DQ—Lawler claimed he should be the World Class champ. But Kerry shot back with the comment that there's no "sissy rule" banning the piledriver in World Class. Both men left the ring with their belts, leaving the situation unresolved.

In other bouts: Ronnie Garvin beat Greg Gagne . . . Michael Hayes & Steve Cox beat The Samoan Swat Team by DQ . . . Bill Dundee, Jeff Jarrett, & Jimmy Valiant beat Robert Fuller, Jimmy Golden, & Tommy Rich . . . Wendi Richter beat Madusa Miceli by DQ . . . Sgt. Slaughter beat Soldat Ustinov. □

## YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 18)

I've beaten them all. Besides, Chicago's a great town, and the fans have treated me nice."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "My question is for CWA champ Phil Hickerson: Phil, in a day and age when wrestlers are all trying to improve their physiques, you seem to be consciously trying to get fat. What are you doing?"—Jerry Ronan, Memphis, TN

**A:** "Well, Jerry," Hickerson replied, "I am one wrestler who is not going to be a slave to his body. I like to eat and I'm very good at it.



As one can see from the size of his stomach, Phil Hickerson would sometimes rather eat than wrestle.

Now, when I was younger, my mama always told me, 'Son, find out what you're good at in life and do it.' Well, mama was a great cook, and soon I found out that I had a genuine aptitude for eating. She used to make a sweet potato pie the likes of which you positively could not believe. *Oooohweeee!* So, as she got better at making them, I got better at eating them. It's a nice little arrangement, you know. Let those muscleheads sweat it out in gyms and weightlifting rooms. I'll just belly up to mama's table. Yessir."

\*\*\*

**Q:** "I would like to ask Kerry Von Erich how he is able to team up with Jerry Lawler after competing against him so violently."—Arthur Anderson, Louisville, KY

**A:** Von Erich answered: "Wow, good question. You know, my matches against Lawler may have become brutal, but that's not how we intended it. We're still sportsmen, and we're still wrestling fair and square, belt against belt. When guys like Tommy Rich and Buddy Landell come after you, you have to find the toughest man you can to team up with, even if he turns out to be your most hated adversary. That's what happened with me and Lawler. I needed someone I knew was a great wrestler. That's half the battle when you're picking a partner. I mean, just because you like someone doesn't mean he'll work out. The other thing you're looking for in a partner is someone you can depend on. Sure, I've wrestled Lawler in some of the most vicious matches of my career, but the man is a sportsman first and an opponent second. He's there when I need him, and I'm there if he ever needs a tag partner. It sounds screwy, but it only proves that our belt-against-belt matches are just good wrestling, not bad blood."

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# Wrestler

THE



Barry Windham

## NWA

### *World Champion:*

**RIC FLAIR**

243, Minneapolis, MN

**1—BARRY WINDHAM**

263, Sweetwater, TX

**2—LEX LUGER**

268, Chicago, IL

**3—STING**

260, Venice Beach, CA

**4—DUSTY RHODES**

302, Austin, TX

**5—STEVE WILLIAMS**

265, Norman, OK

**6—AL PEREZ**

238, Tampa, FL

**7—NIKITA KOLOFF**

275, Moscow, Russia

**8—MIKE ROTUNDO**

245, Syracuse, NY

**9—RICK STEINER**

248, Detroit, MI

**10—KEVIN SULLIVAN**

252, Boston, MA

## WWF

### *World Champion:*

**RANDY SAVAGE**

245, Sarasota, FL

**1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**

280, Queens, NY

**2—ANDRE THE GIANT**

497, Grenoble, France

**3—TED DIBIASE**

247, Omaha, NB

**4—HULK HOGAN**

302, Venice Beach, CA

**5—THE HONKY TONK MAN**

255, Memphis, TN

**6—BAD NEWS BROWN**

280, New York, NY

**7—KING HAKU**

274, Tonga

**8—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**

273, San Francisco, CA

**9—JAKE ROBERTS**

246, Stone Mountain, GA

**10—RICK RUDE**

246, Robbinsdale, MN

## AWA

### *World Champion:*

**JERRY LAWLER**

234, Memphis, TN

**1—RONNIE GARVIN**

231, Montreal, Quebec

**2—KERRY VON ERICH**

260, Denton, TX

**3—GREG GAGNE**

220, Robbinsdale, MN

**4—WAHOO McDANIEL**

280, Midland, TX

**5—MANNY FERNANDEZ**

245, El Paso, TX

**6—SOLDAT USTINOV**

265, Moscow, Russia

**7—COL. DeBEERS**

248, Cape Town, South Africa

**8—MANDO GUERRERO**

225, Mexico City, Mexico

**9—TEUHO KHAN**

265, Singapore

**10—SGT. SLAUGHTER**

310, Parris Island, SC

## WORLD CLASS

### *World Class Champion:*

**KERRY VON ERICH**

260, Denton, TX

**1—ICEMAN PARSONS**

245, St. Louis, MO

**2—JERRY LAWLER**

234, Memphis, TN

**3—KAMALA**

360, Uganda

**4—ERIC EMBRY**

225, Lexington, KY

**5—STEVEN CASEY**

230, San Antonio, TX

**6—BUDDY ROBERTS**

247, Del City, OK

**7—MICHAEL HAYES**

255, Marietta, GA

**8—TERRY GORDY**

289, Chattanooga, TN

**9—THE BEAST**

335, Uganda

**10—STEVE COX**

240, Portsmouth, VA

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category: certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

## MOST POPULAR

<b>1</b>	<b>HULK HOGAN</b> 302, Venice Beach, CA Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
<b>2</b>	<b>RANDY SAVAGE</b> 245, Sarasota, FL Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
<b>3</b>	<b>STING</b> 260, Venice Beach, CA Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
<b>4</b>	<b>LEX LUGER</b> 268, Chicago, IL Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
<b>5</b>	<b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b> 280, Glens Falls, NY Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
<b>6</b>	<b>DUSTY RHODES</b> 302, Austin, TX Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
<b>7</b>	<b>THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b> 280, Queens, NY Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
<b>8</b>	<b>JERRY LAWLER</b> 234, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
<b>9</b>	<b>JAKE ROBERTS</b> 246, Stone Mountain, GA Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
<b>10</b>	<b>KERRY VON ERICH</b> 260, Denton, TX Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

<b>1</b>	<b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b> 497, Grenoble, France Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
<b>2</b>	<b>RIC FLAIR</b> 243, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
<b>3</b>	<b>TED DIBIASE</b> 247, Omaha, NB Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
<b>4</b>	<b>BARRY WINDHAM</b> 263, Sweetwater, TX Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
<b>5</b>	<b>RICK RUDE</b> 246, Robbinsdale, MN Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
<b>6</b>	<b>THE HONKY TONK MAN</b> 255, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
<b>7</b>	<b>TOMMY RICH</b> 248, Hendersonville, TN Last month: unrated
<b>8</b>	<b>KEVIN SULLIVAN</b> 252, Boston, MA Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
<b>9</b>	<b>RON BASS</b> 285, Pampa, TX Last month: unrated
<b>10</b>	<b>RONNIE GARVIN</b> 231, Montreal, Quebec Last month: unrated

For period ended September 1, 1988

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

## SINGLES

<b>1</b> — <b>RIC FLAIR</b> .....	<b>96</b> points
<b>2</b> — <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b> .....	<b>83</b> points
<b>3</b> — <b>LEX LUGER</b> .....	<b>55</b> points
<b>4</b> — <b>STING</b> .....	<b>46</b> points
<b>5</b> — <b>TED DIBIASE/JERRY LAWLER</b> .....	<b>42</b> points
<b>6</b> — <b>THE HONKY TONK MAN</b> .....	
<b>7</b> — <b>TOMMY RICH</b> .....	
<b>8</b> — <b>KEVIN SULLIVAN</b> .....	
<b>9</b> — <b>RON BASS</b> .....	
<b>10</b> — <b>RONNIE GARVIN</b> .....	

## TAG TEAMS

<b>1</b> — <b>TULLY BLANCHARD &amp; ARN ANDERSON</b> .....	<b>83</b> points
<b>2</b> — <b>THE ROAD WARRIORS</b> .....	<b>81</b> points
<b>3</b> — <b>THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS</b> .....	<b>70</b> points
<b>4</b> — <b>DEMOLITION</b> .....	<b>66</b> points
<b>5</b> — <b>THE FANTASTICS</b> .....	<b>41</b> points

## STAMPEDE

### North American Champion:

### MAKHAN SINGH

380, Saginaw, MI

<b>1</b> — <b>JOHNNY SMITH</b> 235, Manchester, England
<b>2</b> — <b>STEVE DISALVO</b> 298, Boston, MA
<b>3</b> — <b>BRUCE HART</b> 211, Calgary, Alberta
<b>4</b> — <b>CHRIS BENOIT</b> 218, Edmonton, Alberta
<b>5</b> — <b>LANCE IDOL</b> 225, Hollywood, CA
<b>6</b> — <b>STEVE BLACKMAN</b> 250, Pittsburgh, PA
<b>7</b> — <b>VULKAN SINGH</b> 300, Billings, MT
<b>8</b> — <b>GAMA SINGH</b> 220, Karachi, Pakistan
<b>9</b> — <b>JERRY MORROW</b> 235, Martinique
<b>10</b> — <b>BEEF WELLINGTON</b> 225, Lloydminster, Alberta

## CWA

### CWA Champion:

### PHIL HICKERSON

257, Jackson, TN

<b>1</b> — <b>BRICKHOUSE BROWN</b> 225, Winter Haven, FL
<b>2</b> — <b>SCOTT STEINER</b> 235, Detroit, MI
<b>3</b> — <b>ROBERT FULLER</b> 238, Dyerburg, TN
<b>4</b> — <b>TOMMY RICH</b> 248, Hendersonville, TN
<b>5</b> — <b>JEFF JARRETT</b> 200, Hendersonville, TN
<b>6</b> — <b>JIMMY VALIANT</b> 251, New York, NY
<b>7</b> — <b>GARY YOUNG</b> 240, Houston, TX
<b>8</b> — <b>JIMMY GOLDEN</b> 235, Montgomery, AL
<b>9</b> — <b>BUDDY LANDELL</b> 236, Los Angeles, CA
<b>10</b> — <b>BILL DUNDEE</b> 214, Melbourne, AUS

## CONTINENTAL

### Continental Champion:

### TITLE VACANT

To be filled in elimination tourney

<b>1</b> — <b>AUSTIN IDOL</b> 240, Las Vegas, NV
<b>2</b> — <b>WILLIE B. HERT</b> 238, El Paso, TX
<b>3</b> — <b>LORD HUMONGOUS</b> 325, parts unknown
<b>4</b> — <b>KEN WAYNE</b> 208, Memphis, TN
<b>5</b> — <b>TOM PRICHARD</b> 220, Houston, TX
<b>6</b> — <b>JERRY STUBBS</b> 242, Pensacola, FL
<b>7</b> — <b>DAN DAVIS</b> 238, Nashville, TN
<b>8</b> — <b>TONY ANTHONY</b> 235, Bucksnorth, TN
<b>9</b> — <b>THE BULLET</b> 234, parts unknown
<b>10</b> — <b>TERRY GORDY</b> 289, Chattanooga, TN

## FLORIDA

### FCW Champion:

### DICK SLATER

235, Tampa, FL

<b>1</b> — <b>JOHNNY ACE</b> 250, San Bernardino, CA
<b>2</b> — <b>THE TERMINATOR</b> 260, parts unknown
<b>3</b> — <b>SCOTTY THE BODY</b> 235, Palm Beach, FL
<b>4</b> — <b>MIKE GRAHAM</b> 221, Tampa, FL
<b>5</b> — <b>STEVE KEIRN</b> 238, Tampa, FL
<b>6</b> — <b>MARK STARR</b> 232, Tampa, FL
<b>7</b> — <b>THE BLADE</b> 231, Tampa, FL
<b>8</b> — <b>THE ROCK</b> 248, Tampa, FL
<b>9</b> — <b>JIM BACKLUND</b> 221, Plant City, FL
<b>10</b> — <b>DUSTIN RHODES</b> 240, Austin, TX

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

**A new number one!** Because of their September 10 victory over Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World tag team title, The Midnight Express has taken over the top spot in our tag team ratings. At press time, the Midnights also held the U.S. tag belts, but they'll be forced to give up that title because of NWA guidelines prohibiting a team from holding both belts at the same time. Tully and Arn signed a contract with the WWF shortly after losing the belts and were not scheduled to wrestle again until after the end of the ratings period; thus, they were dropped from the ratings



Ric Flair

**Ratings analysis!** A great name for a column, and a great idea for a column with such a name! This month, we'll take a closer look at the NWA, WWF, and AWA singles ratings.

First, the NWA. Ric Flair is still the World champion. U.S. champion Barry Windham is automatically the top contender. Lex Luger has been getting most of the matches against Flair recently and remains in the number-two spot, followed by Sting, Barry Windham's number-one challenger. Dusty Rhodes has been taking care of Kevin Sullivan in a series of dog collar chain matches and remains at number four. Dusty however, has not wrestled for the World title in quite some time. Steve Williams has been wrestling mostly in tag teams, but continues to be an outstanding singles wrestler.

Al Perez notches in at number six; the former World Class champ has been unable to win a title since coming to the NWA and doesn't seem much closer right now. Nikita Koloff is number seven, but figures to drop over the coming months because of his reunion with Ivan Koloff; look for a Nikita-Ivan tag team in the near future, and look for the former U.S. champ to move further away from regaining the title. TV champion Mike Rotundo drops a notch to number nine, behind Varsity Club teammate Rick Steiner. The outside interference of Club manager Kevin Sullivan—number 10 this month—has cost Rotundo, an outstanding scientific wrestler, much respect.

In the WWF, Randy Savage is well into his seventh month as World champion. The Ultimate Warrior is Intercontinental champ and the automatic number-one contender. But we have a new number two in Andre the Giant, a former—albeit brief!—World champ; Andre's already wrestled Savage sever-

al times, with more matches to follow. He displaces Ted DiBiase, who was unable to win the title from Savage and will now get fewer title shots; he's down to number three. Hulk Hogan is back, but don't look for him to get any shots at his friend and tag team partner Savage. Then there's The Honky Tonk Man at number five, hanging on only because of his status as former I-C champ and number-one challenger to the Warrior.

Bad News Brown, at number six, has been nearly unbeatable since coming to the WWF; he's also wrestled—unsuccessfully—for the World title several times. King Haku, number seven, has been granted a series of matches against Savage, thanks to manager Bobby Heenan. Brutus Beefcake, former top contender to the I-C title, is at number eight and dropping. Jake Roberts is involved in a meaningless feud with Rick Rude; they're ranked at nine and 10, respectively.

AWA World champ Jerry Lawler has been staunchly challenged for his belt by World Class champ Kerry Von Erich, but continues to hold on. Kerry, by the way, is rated in both the AWA and World Class ratings because of the title vs. title matches. He's number two in the AWA. Ronnie Garvin, fresh off his victory over Greg Gagne for the TV title, gets the automatic number-one challenger's spot; Gagne drops to number three. Wahoo McDaniel and Manny Fernandez are involved in a red-hot feud and are at numbers four and five, respectively.

The bottom five is led off by Soldat Ustinov, a talented singles wrestler who has already taken Lawler to the limit. Col. DeBeers, who recently returned to the AWA and immediately started a feud with Sgt. Slaughter, is at number seven; the Sarge is at number 10. Mando Guerrero and Teijho Khan are dangerous wrestlers, but neither is likely to unseat Lawler; they're at numbers eight and nine.

**It's The Sunshine State!** Land of great citrus fruit, Walt Disney World, and some of the most exciting wrestling in the country with Florida Championship Wrestling. FCW takes center stage in the revolving ratings this month, boasting seven Florida natives in its top 10: FCW champion Dick Slater, Mike Graham, Steve Keirn, Mark Starr, The Blade, The Rock, and Jim Backlund. This relatively new federation also features Dustin Rhodes, son of "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes.

**That's all, folks!** But keep those cards and letters coming. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY; 11571. □



Soldat Ustinov

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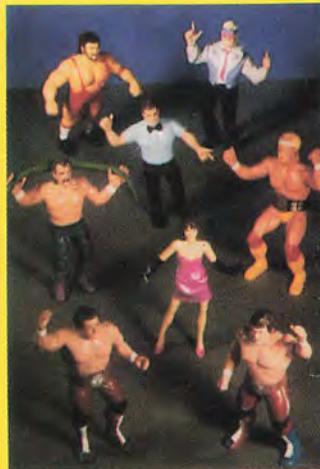
# WWF Action Figures



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To assure Christmas Delivery - orders must be received by Dec. 10.

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Page 1

**HANDLING CHARGES**  
(See Chart)  
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**TOTAL**  
Please allow 2 weeks delivery  
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All merchandise is shipped UPS

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